

Hafa Adai!

Ex-CUC board chair's bid to lower sentence denied. » **PAGE 6**

CNMI's Tamangided joins Obama, top educators in DC. » **PAGE 9**

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75¢

Flames engulf van at Bomb Pit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Failure in communication and the lack of a 911 emergency system on Tinian prevented firefighters from immediately responding to a fire that completely burned a van next to the historic Bomb Pit in the morning of April 15. Fortunately, no one was injured in the blaze.

In a news briefing yesterday, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting commissioner Claudio K. Norita and Firefighter II Daniel R. Suel cited the two

» **Failure in communication, lack of 911 system cited as factors for slow response**

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Firefighter II Daniel R. Suel relates their investigation into the fire that engulfed a van next to the historic Bomb Pit on Tinian in the morning last April 15 during a press briefing yesterday at Fire Station in Susupe, Saipan. Listening to Suel are Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services acting commissioner Claudio K. Norita and DFEMS spokesman Derek B. Gersonde.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Insurance bill for retirees may impact thousands

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

A bill to bring back government retirees into the government's health and insurance plan could face rough waters in the Legislature, considering its possible im-

pact on thousands of existing insurance holders.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) earlier introduced Senate Bill 19-10, which seeks to allow retirees to enroll back in the government's health insurance program anytime they

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Cops allegedly accost 3 that rented 'stolen' car

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A family of three had just rented a car to help them run errands for an upcoming baby shower when, while at the Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa, a swarm of armed police officers suddenly surrounded them and accused them of stealing the car.

It turned out that the car rental company, Micronesia Rent A Car, had earlier reported the car as stolen after a prior renter failed to return the vehicle in a timely manner. Micronesia then failed to inform DPS that the car had ultimately been returned and was no longer considered "stolen."

Now the family of three—

Davie B. Diaz, Kathy C. Tenorio, and Kristy R. Diaz—is suing Micronesia Rent A Car and its owner Yu Li for negligence, violation of the Consumer Protection Act, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Davie Diaz is the husband of Tenorio and the father of Kristy Diaz. They are demanding an

See COPS on Page 4

Judge: Denial of Dynasty's CW-1 petitions not final

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday ruled that the decision to deny the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's CW-1 visa petitions for its foreign workers is clearly not final and that the Administrative Appeals Office is currently in the process of re-

» **Manglona dismisses lawsuit filed by Tinian Dynasty's over 500 workers**

viewing it. In granting the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the case, U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the court lacks jurisdiction and must dismiss the case filed by the workers because the denial of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd.'s petitions is not final.

Manglona, however, said the workers may refile the lawsuit

See JUDGE on Page 4

INSIDE



ASIA

Nepal will need immense international support as the nation begins reconstruction.

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WORLD

Italian rescue ships rescue nearly 6,800 migrants, including a baby born at sea.

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LIFE & STYLE

It's a name that evokes British royal history: Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana.

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Local

Hunter details decrepit state of the CNMI Museum

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands' Museum of History and Culture's longstanding problems won't be buried in history books yet, not while it doesn't have the funding it needs to rectify them.

Executive director Robert Hunter told members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at their weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan of the problems the museum continues to encounter—problems that, for the most part, stem from lack of funding.

Problems from early beginnings

The current museum on Middle Road was the third incarnation of the state museum on the island. It served as the state museum since it opened in 1998 after the previous two, which were set up in different locations, closed down.

But this museum wasn't also supposed to last, at least in its

current location, in the renovated ruins of a Japanese era hospital. It was supposed to be relocated but this didn't happen because of economic problems.

"It was never intended to become a permanent facility and that's even written into the law that created the museum," Hunter said.

"Because it wasn't planned to be this permanent facility, a lot of what normally would have been planned or should have been planned into a museum facility wasn't planned into this facility," he added.

Among these are adequate storage, curator workspace, research space, and library area that is needed for a museum.

"The museum right now is packed to capacity. All four administrative offices are packed to the ceiling with historic material," he said.

Present problems

Setting the limited space aside, the facility itself is having problems.



FRAULEINE MICHELLE S. VILLANUEVA
Executive director Robert Hunter tells the state of the NMI Museum of History and Culture at the Rotary Club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

According to Hunter, the new room that was constructed when the museum was renovated is pulling away from the original

structure and the cheapest of remedies that they can find costs about \$20,000.

Operating the museum also poses problems. Beginning in mid-2000s, the museum was hit hard with budget cuts.

"We ran every fifth light, for example, for cost-savings," said Hunter, who told the audience that they also experienced power cuts before.

From 10 staff, it came to a point where Hunter and a maintenance person were the only ones left to operate the facility.

In effect, the museum can't also apply for grants, for example, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which requires them to have a five- or 10-year history of professional

staff and curators, which the museum doesn't have.

"In the past we had to recruit these people from the mainland and they come at a very high cost," Hunter added.

Effect on the future

Hunter admits that "the magnitude of the financial problems in the museum is enormous."

But despite the seeming lack of priority in maintaining the museum and its artifacts, for him there is a need to take care of these because it can benefit the future, including generating possible revenues.

"This is our collective wealth. These are the only artifacts, there's no replacing these artifacts," Hunter said.

Saipan Mayor's Office gets new dump truck

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office finally received the long-awaited dump truck it purchased in early September last year and it was at the Office of Procurement and Supply as of yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the dump truck finally arrived from California based on the photo that Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) posted on his Facebook page yesterday.

The purchase of the dump truck was made possible after the Saipan Mayor's Office got \$413,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said that with the arrival of the dump truck, the office can now improve its performance in community projects.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang began sending out community workers to clean up villages last February. With the new dump truck, the office's community workers can now double their efforts in cleaning the islands.

Apatang noted that regular island cleanups are one of his pri-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) poses for a group photo along with the Saipan Mayor's Office staff at the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base in front of the mayor's office's new dump truck.

orities and is actually part of the Saipan Mayor's Office's duties.

Hofschneider said the office is happy about getting the dump truck already. All three new heavy equipment purchased from last year have arrived.

Right now, they are in the process of purchasing a skid steer loader that is similar to

backhoes but are smaller. The contract is worth \$107,800 and is now being routed for signing.

Despite the two new equipment and other smaller equipment purchased recently, Hofschneider noted that the Mayor's Office still needs a big boom truck, a smaller dump truck, and small roller compact-

er for compacting when clearing secondary roads.

"Although these will be a lot of money, it will be put to good use. We don't want to purchase used equipment because we'll spend even more in repairing if it breaks down, so we're aiming for newer equipment," he said.

DLNR eyes better data on seasonal run fish species

NOAA Fisheries-sponsored personnel began training in April to gather "uncollected data" on fish in the CNMI, and now the actual work should start this May, according to Department of Land and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman.

The target approach for this work is collecting data on seasonal run fish species like the *atulai*, big eye scud or *manahok*, and rabbit fish, he said.

These species have never been concentrated on specifically and have always been generalized in reports.

"It ruins your data because

you are reporting [for example] 5,000 lbs of *atulai*. That really throws off your data because the one species dominates and the next 11 months—nothing."

How their data method used to be was "whatever is covered during their shift that's what's covered" for the year, according to Seman.

He said the CNMI has a system in place in how often to collect data. But oftentimes that system may be affected by government rules and policy relating to work hours.

"At times, we don't have enough funding to cover overtime, or night differential,

where they can do night work on a regular basis. We can only do work certain times each month, and when you don't do it every time that gives you the data gap," Seman said.

"Some of the strategies NOAA wants to do in the CNMI is identify those gaps and hire people specifically to work around those gaps—where they are more flexible and they are not restricted to personnel because they will not be CNMI government employees. In the CNMI, it's a new idea in how we cover or how we collect some of the data that were never collected," he said

Better data means a better annual catch limit, or ACL, he said, which is federally administered.

"In order for us to get a grasp of what our limits should be we should cover every angle possible to provide us a determination of whatever has been landed. If you don't count those [fish] that you don't find, or you've never covered, then you are losing those catches as part of your overall volume. You are shortchanging yourself on your overall ACL.

"The whole purpose behind the ACL is to prevent overfishing," he said. **(Dennis B. Chan)**


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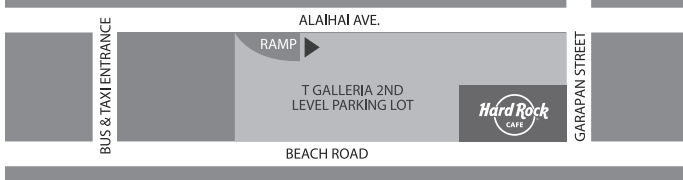
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Certified question on Mañagaha fees still under review

By **JOEL PINAROC**
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A certified question on a local law that requires families whose properties were taken by the government for public use to be compensated using Managaha landing fees is still under review.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan

and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said the question is still being reviewed by the delegation's legal counsel.

The delegation earlier moved for the creation of the certified question, which is seen as key toward resolving the longstanding issue.

The delegation also said it will soon name a lawmaker to

sign off on the certified question, which will be submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Saipan Local Law 18-19 mandates the Department of Public Lands to distribute \$800,000 to more than 200 Saipan families. The payments will come from "landing fees" that are generated from tourists visiting Managaha Island, a prime tourist spot in the CNMI.

But the payments have been delayed because questions about the local law itself have risen, including whether these landing fees are considered land leases or fees and whether they could be used to pay for land compensations.

Moving forward

According to Sablan, he earlier sent a letter to Public Lands and the Office of the Attorney Gen-

eral on the matter.

One letter asked DPL to "follow the rule" and the other was to ask the attorney general to "enforce the law," Sablan said.

"Both responded. DPL thinks [the payments are] unconstitutional, and the AG said perhaps it will be for the best interest of everyone to take the matter to the Supreme Court," Sablan said.

He said the process on the certified question "is not an easy task and might take years."

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) earlier said SLL 18-19 "remains a valid CNMI law," because there is no court decision saying otherwise.

The \$800,000 land compensation payments will come from \$1 million in landing fees that the government, through the DPL, currently holds.

Since September 2014, the

administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos has been considering going the route of a certified question to get legal guidelines for pending judgments or obligations such as land compensations.

Gilbert Birnrich, the former attorney general, earlier said the public law runs counter to the CNMI Constitution.

He said a certified question before the Supreme Court will put finality not only to the much-debated land compensation law but also any law and future laws that appropriates money from the Managaha landing and users fees.

It is now up to the 19th Legislature to work on the certified question.

CUC wants arbitration case filed by engineering company stopped

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday asked the federal court to stop the arbitration case filed against CUC before the American Arbitration Association in Hawaii by Vanderpool Pipeline Engineers Inc., which is seeking \$527,000 in payment for CUC's stalled oil pipeline project.

CUC, through counsel James Sirok, wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that CUC has no contractual obligation to arbitrate disputes with Vanderpool.

Sirok asked the court to declare that the arbitration provision being relied upon by Vanderpool to prosecute its arbitration case against CUC with the American Arbitration Association is invalid.

Sirok asserted that CUC never agreed or consented to arbitration.

Vanderpool served as the pipeline designer and third-party construction manager for the pipeline project.

The lawyer said Vanderpool tried to bootstrap an arbitration agreement and usurious late fees into the original contract between CUC and Vanderpool via two change orders.

Sirok said Vanderpool inserted an arbitration clause into a proposal for additional work to be added to the original contract.

Sirok said CUC's contract with Vanderpool expired on Dec. 31, 2014, and that to date, the pipeline project has not been completed. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CNMI awaits data on efficacy of \$125K WICHE membership

The CNMI is still waiting to see how many students have availed of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education's discounted tuition rate, for which, among other services, the CNMI doles out an annual \$125,000 membership fee.

The Northern Marianas College expects the most current data to be out in fall this year, according to outreach counselor Christine Inos yesterday.

CNMI residents can avail of a discounted rate of 150 percent at WICHE-affiliated colleges or universities.

A WICHE statistics report for 2014-2015 noted zeroes across the board for the number of CNMI students in WICHE schools. But an asterisk in the

report notes that the CNMI just joined WICHE in 2013.

In an NMC board meeting in March, the issue of a lack of data was taken up. Questions directed toward the investment of \$125,000 in annual fees taken from the CNMI Scholarship Office to pay for WICHE membership were brought up. But more time for the statistics to come through was also encouraged.

The college had reported then, from data from the CNMI Scholarship Office, that there were 50 students under the WICHE program. But this data did not account for how many students availed or may have not availed for themselves the WICHE discounted tuition rate. *(Dennis B. Chan)*

CPUC hearing on rate changes on Thurs.

Proposed utility rate changes will be heard at the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission public hearing this Thursday, May 7, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

In February, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board approved four rate cases to be presented before CPUC: to change the rate reconciliation process for the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC; to extend the infrastructure surcharge that is set to expire in May; to replace the residential inverted block rate with a flat rate; and to eliminate the water electric charge.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said they filed cases that won't be heard this time around but they did file. Things that will be discussed are some of the "key issues," he said.

"We're in discussions all week with the consultant of the Public Utilities Commission," he said in preparation for the hearing.

In terms of revenue, CUC is not expecting additional revenue from changes to the LEAC reconciliation as reported earlier.

The infrastructure surcharge, to be renamed the "debt service surcharge," would provide CUC an additional \$4.7 million. That charge expired this May.

The replacement of the inverted block residential rate with a uniform residential rate will provide CUC about another \$1 million in revenue, according to CUC.

In total, this would give CUC about \$5.8 million in additional revenue and allow them to break even in the next 12 months. *(Dennis B. Chan)*



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Igisomar initiates 'war on ice' campaign

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) is in the process of finalizing a campaign to further combat the proliferation of methamphetamine or "ice" on the Commonwealth.

The lawmaker said it seems to be easy for the distributor or drug dealer, or trafficker, to get

"ice" to the user.

Children are accessing the drugs and the problem is getting out of hand as indicated by a lot of crimes that are linked to "ice," Igisomar said.

He said it is his intent to "suppress" or "block" this "direct ac-

cess" between the dealer and the user through an education campaign and outreach programs to parents and children.

The campaign will involve a "drug court" and rehabilitation centers as well as the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Customs on the reinforcement side.

A drug task force, which

might require funding, is also being eyed.

Igisomar particularly noted that a drug court has already been endorsed and is only awaiting the necessary funding for it to be established.

He said the campaign will work in such a way that the drug court will work with the rehabilitation center to prevent users

from going back to using drugs.

And to further make the campaign effective, Igisomar said he is finalizing details on hiring an external consultant to organize the campaign.

"The idea is to suppress and stifle the proliferation of drugs," he said, through an information dissemination campaign to involve the whole community, including

businesses, groups, and residents.

"This drug problem is killing our economy," Igisomar said.

Igisomar earlier introduced several bills, one of which is to "freeze" the assets of convicted distributors of illegal drugs, particularly that of "ice" and another imposes heavier penalties on drug peddlers. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

JUDGE

From Page 1

after the Administrative Appeals Office issues its decision and the agency's action is final.

"For this court to undertake its own review while the administrative appeal is pending would waste resources and create the sort of duplication that Section 704 of the APA was intended to avoid," the judge pointed out.

Manglona said it is unnec-

essary, therefore to determine whether plaintiffs, as beneficiaries of Hong Kong Entertainment's petitions, have standing to sue and can state a claim on which relief may be granted.

Over 500 foreign workers of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino filed the lawsuit against Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez, and USCIS California Service Center Director Kathy A. Baran after USCIS denied Hong Kong Entertainment's 197 CW-1

petitions involving 693 beneficiaries.

Attorney Bruce Berline filed the lawsuit as counsel for Belal Hossain, Wenli Zhong, Pukar Patel, and 500 unknown co-plaintiffs. Berline asked the court to declare that USCIS is precluded from relying on a pending criminal case against HKE, which owns and operates the 412-room hotel with casino, as a basis for determining that HKE is not a legitimate employer.

Berline asked the court to de-

clare that the denial of HKE's CW-1 petitions on grounds that HKE is not a legitimate employer is contrary to and in violation of due process as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Sarah L. Vuong, as counsel for the defendants, moved to dismiss the lawsuit.

Vuong asserted that since that HKE's nonimmigrant visa petition remains under administrative appeal, the federal court should dismiss the lawsuit in

its entirety for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction.

The hearing on the motion was held last April 23.

In her order yesterday, Manglona said the problem for the plaintiffs is that their lawsuit doesn't really challenge the decision to deny them extensions.

"They don't assert that they are entitled to extensions regardless of whether their employer's CW-1 petitions on their behalf are approved," Manglona said.

Instead, the judge said, the plaintiffs challenge the correctness of the underlying decision to deny the CW-1 petitions.

"That decision clearly is not final, for the AAO is now in the process of reviewing it," she said.

BILL

From Page 1

wish to, instead of just within six months after they retire, as mandated by Public Law 15-70.

According to Quitugua, SB 19-10 is expected to benefit some 900 to 1,000 retirees who have opted out of the government insurance plan.

SB 19-10 was calendared for final reading during the Senate session on Tinian last week, but questions arose about its potential impact on existing insurance policy holders.

One of the concerns on SB 19-10 is that it is likely to increase the existing rates of government insurance holders.

Aetna Global is the insurance provider for government employees after the Department of Finance renewed the deal until the end of fiscal year 2015 in September.

Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said that retirees going back into the plan will have more health and insurance needs, which in turn might prompt higher rates.

Impact

About 3,000 government employees could be affected, according to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

Hocog added that if the 900 to 1,000 or so retirees are allowed to go back to the government insurance plan, the government needs an additional 500 employees just to keep the rates or lower the rates a bit.

"Where do we find the 500?" Hocog asked.

He also said bringing in the 900 to 1,000 retirees on the Aetna insurance "today" may also affect the government to the tune of \$1.2 million in additional payments by the end of the fiscal year.

This is why lawmakers have

Manglona noted that at the hearing, the U.S. government gave assurances that if HKE prevails in its appeal of the CW-1 denials, plaintiffs will get their extensions and return to lawful status, and the time accrued in unlawful presence will roll back.

However, Manglona said, every day that plaintiffs remain in the U.S. during the pendency of the appeal, they accumulate unlawful presence that may never be rolled back (if the AAO affirms the decisions) and risk being deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Moreover, Manglon said, USCIS's denial of extensions (as opposed to its denial of the petitions) is not appealable.

asked Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson to coordinate with Aetna Global, Hocog said.

Hocog said one possibility is for the government to bring retirees who previously opted out back to the insurance plan little by little and see what kind of impact this will have.

He said data is needed from Aetna on what will happen to the existing insurance rates if, say, 25, 50, or 100 retirees are brought back in.

Hocog said "the best for us is to get information from Aetna" and see how flexible the insurance provider can be. He also added that, "Aetna has been very helpful to the government."

Noble intent

Hocog said he understands the noble intent of Quitugua's bill, but lawmakers would have to be very careful.

"We might satisfy the 900 to 1,000, but we might hurt the existing plan holders," Hocog said.

The lawmaker said a bill is now being discussed in the House to make it mandatory for autonomous agencies to enroll in the program specifically for this purpose.

But this may not solve the whole problem, Hocog said, adding that the bill is still with Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

"I know that it is a noble intent to bring back the retirees, because they don't have anything. But we would have to be very careful," Hocog said, adding that "any additional increase" might compel existing plan holders to pull out.

While acknowledging the intent of Quitugua's bill, Hocog did not discount the possibility that S.B. 19-10 might be scrapped.

"We will probably wait for the House version, and probably amend it later," he said.

COPS

From Page 1

unspecified amount of damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune failed to get the contact number of Micronesia and Li for comment.

According to Diaz's counsel, Samuel I. Mok, his clients rented a 2007 beige/gold Toyota Camry with license plate ADM-011 from Micronesia Rent A Car on May 4, 2013.

Shortly after renting the car, Davie Diaz and Tenorio drove it to Sugar Dock near the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in order to pick up relatives who were

swimming at the beach with other members of the community, including friends and neighbors.

Mok said at 4pm, eight to nine DPS police officers wearing tactical gear confronted Davie Diaz and Tenorio and accused them of driving a stolen car.

Police officers surrounded Davie Diaz and Tenorio and questioned them in an aggressive manner for allegedly stealing the car or being in possession of a stolen vehicle.

By this time, Mok said, about 100 onlookers had gathered to watch the spectacle of the plaintiffs being apprehended, accused, and almost arrested

for allegedly stealing a car by a tactical team of officers driving a police van with "Explosive" marked prominently on its side.

Mok said Davie Diaz and Tenorio attempted to explain to officers that they had legitimately rented the car earlier that day from Micronesia Rent A Car and produced a car rental receipt as proof of their claims.

"Unfortunately, plaintiffs were still ordered by DPS to exit their vehicle and to remove all of their belongings from the car in front of the crowd of onlookers," he said.

Mok said despite his clients' insistence that it was all a mistake, they were still treated like

criminals by DPS up until the time they were finally cleared and allowed to leave the scene.

"The profound embarrassment, humiliation, stress, fear, and anxiety experienced by the plaintiffs as a result of the situation was entirely avoidable had the defendants exercised reasonable care in the manner in which they operated their business," he said.

Mok said as a result, Davie Diaz exacerbated a prior heart condition because of the unnecessary drama that occurred that required him to receive emergency medical treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center later that evening.

FLAMES

From Page 1

Norita said two firefighters eventually responded to the Bomb Pit, but it was too late because the 2013 Nissan Quest car owned by Avis Rent A Car was already engulfed in flames.

Norita also disclosed that pumps in the island's two fire trucks have not been working since six to eight months ago and that there is no budget to buy parts, estimated to cost \$52,000 for both vehicles. He said Tinian Fire is currently using small trucks to respond to fires.

Norita instructed Suel and fire investigator Norman Skillington last April 16 to proceed to Tinian and investigate the fire incident.

Case agent Suel said that, on April 15 at 11:39am, Tinian Department of Public Safety Dispatch received a call from Trenton Conner reporting a vehicle on fire at the Bomb Pit.

Suel said DPS police officers who responded to the site saw that the van was already engulfed in flames.

Suel said firefighters arrived shortly after aboard their rescue vehicle.

Suel said Vicente Santos, one of the passengers of the van, disclosed that they rented the van

from Avis Rent-A-Car.

As the group was about to leave the parking lot, Santos heard the van making a weird sound so he asked an Avis personnel about the sound, but he was assured that the vehicle was fine.

Santos and others, including an investor, first went to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and met with Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas and Tinian Health Center resident director William Cing. After that, Santos and the passengers left the hotel to show the investor around the island.

When they reached the Bomb Pit and got down, Santos noticed smoke coming out from underneath the van's carriage on the driver side. He also saw what appeared to be fluid dripping down to the pavement from the undercarriage.

Santos escorted the passengers to a clear area. He and the group repeatedly tried to call people via cell phone to get help but to no avail. Persistent calls paid off when Herman Cabrera was able to get through and called Trenton Connor.

The communication kept dropping without fully disseminating any information. Cabrera finally contacted William Cing's cell phone and told him about the incident. The call, however, dropped again.

Cabrera called 911, but the call was picked up by the Saipan DPS. Cabrera requested for a fire truck.

Saipan DPS 911 dispatch called the Tinian dispatch and told them about the incident.

Cing was reportedly walking to his car for lunch when he received a message from Cabrera about their car on fire at the Bomb Pit at 11:39am. Cing walked into the Tinian Fire Station and informed two firefighters about the incident.

Cing kept asking Cabrera if anyone was injured and if an ambulance was needed, but there was no answer. Cing left the fire station and was on his way to the Tinian Dynasty when he heard the sirens of an emergency vehicle heading toward the airport and the Bomb Pit.

Suel said that based on their investigation, it was found out that the van had been serviced twice by an auto shop before the incident.

Suel said that, on Jan. 31, 2015, the van was taken to the auto shop to fix a leaking power steering hose and that a month later, the renter reported to Avis that the van was emitting an odor like something was burning.

On March 23, 2015, the van was taken to the same shop due to steering abnormalities.

The abnormalities were recti-

DPW seeks \$4.1M budget, 64 personnel for FY 2016

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works has submitted a budget of \$4.14 million for fiscal year 2016, the bulk of which will go to payments of streetlights' power consumption.

The Legislature held a budget hearing for the DPW on Tuesday to review the department's budget proposal.

ment's budget proposal.

An overview of the budget showed that \$1.8 million has been allocated to the streetlights, estimated to number more than 4,000.

The proposed budget for the DPW Office of the Secretary reached \$766,126, and a staff of 13.

The proposed budget for the Building Safety Code Division is at \$387,414 and a staff of 13.

The Roads and Grounds Division's proposed budget is \$238,173 with a staff of 10, and the Technical Services Division's proposed budget is \$914,353 and a staff of 28.

DPW's total proposed personnel for the next fiscal year is 64, and plugged into the budget are positions that

are still open.

A new round of review will be conducted after the budget hearings of the other departments.

According to Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, the government would like to have an inventory of the streetlights, because it was reported that based

on a rough estimate, some 600 lights are "not working."

Sablan said it is important to "know the actual costs of what the government needs to pay for the streetlights that are working," adding that knowing actual costs "may save the government some money."

Generally, Sablan said, the DPW is "satisfied" with its budget request because the

department was able to realign some of its resources, particularly its Technical Services Division where most of the personnel are deployed.

Sablan also said the DPW's landfill operations are projected to bring in about \$2.2 million for the department this year.

Up next for the House Committee of Ways and Means are budget hearing for the Department of Fire and the Saipan Mayor's Office this week.



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Ex-CUC board chair's bid to lower sentence denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Noting that illness is a part of life, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman denied former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Fran-

cisco Q. Guerrero's motion to reduce his sentence due to his medical condition.

"Defendant failed to make his case that the court should grant him relief on the basis of compassion," said Wiseman in the order on Monday.

In July 2013, a Superior Court jury acquitted the then-63-year-old Guerrero of two counts of a sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who presided over the trial, found him guilty on 11 charges: three counts of assault and battery, five counts of disturbing the peace, two counts of indecent exposure in the second degree, and sexual abuse of a minor in the fourth degree.

In November 2013, Wise-

man sentenced Guerrero to six years in prison, without the possibility of parole. The maximum sentence that could be imposed was seven years and six months imprisonment.

Following the conviction, Guerrero appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. The high court, however, upheld his conviction.

Last month, Guerrero, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, filed a motion to reduce the sentence on the basis of Guerrero's reputation prior to his conviction and for medical reasons.

In denying the motion, Wiseman said the court is not

persuaded by Guerrero's arguments. He pointed out that a defendant must show illegality or a gross abuse of discretion in order to reduce a sentence, as outlined in Rule 35(b) of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

The judge pointed out that Guerrero's three-page memorandum of points and authorities do not allege any illegality or gross abuse of discretion.

Therefore, he said, Guerrero has not met his burden of showing the prima facie ele-

ments for relief.

Wiseman noted that the maximum sentence he could have imposed was seven and a half years but he found good cause to reduce the sentence based on some mitigating circumstances, such as Guerrero's former status in the community.

Wiseman said he ultimately sentenced Guerrero to six years, the same sentence recommended by the presentence investigation report.

In sentencing Guerrero, the judge considered Guerrero's sexual abuse of the victim, the trauma inflicted upon her, the relationship between them, the severity of the offense, Guer-

ro's lack of remorse, his character, and other factors.

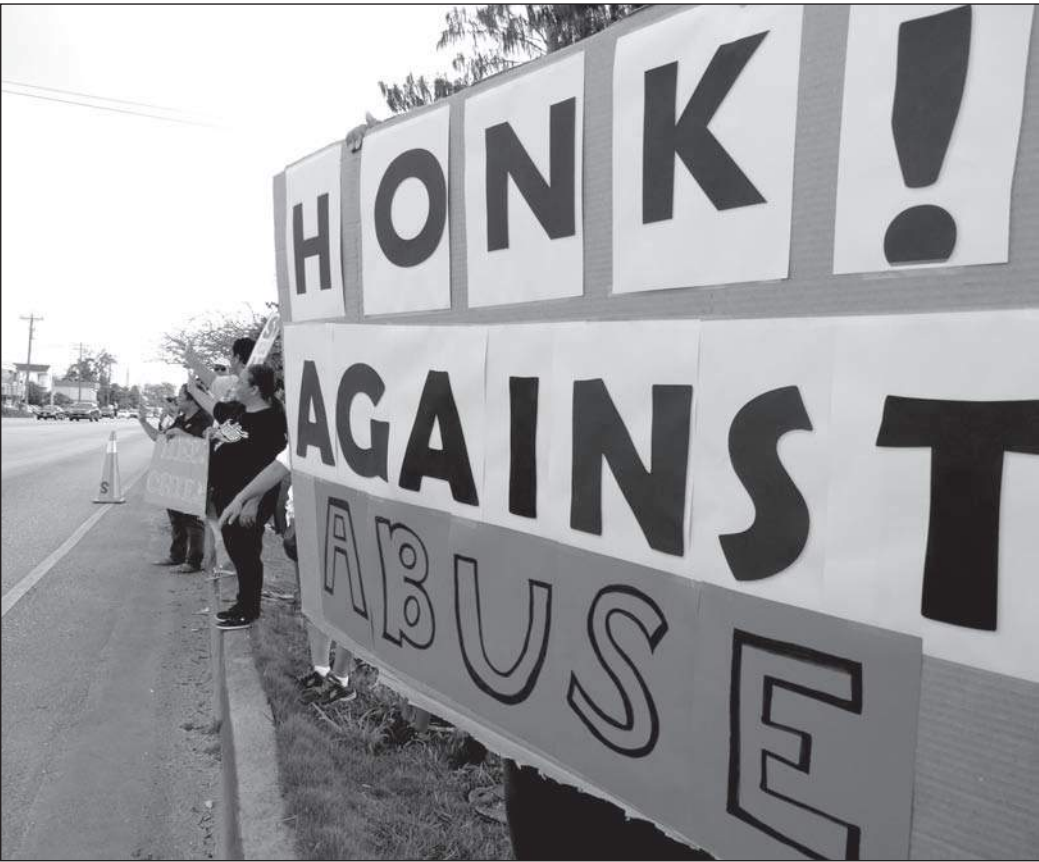
"The court finds here, as it found then, that defendant's sentence was appropriate in light of said considerations," Wiseman said.

Guerrero filed several post-trial motions and appeals but most were denied.

Guerrero was ordered to start serving his sentence on Dec. 1, 2013, at the Department of Corrections. According to the court's commitment order, Guerrero began sexually molesting the girl in 2010 when she was in 9th grade and continued doing so up to May 2012 on five occasions.



Wiseman



JAYSON CAMACHO

STOP CHILD ABUSE

A Division of Youth Services staff holds up a sign to urge motorists to "honk against abuse." That was the message they wanted to get out to the public Thursday last week at the Atkins Kroll Intersection. Joined by different organizations, DYS received full support in maximizing awareness at their first-ever roadside waving.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-15-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-015, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 27, 2015** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 11, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

THOMPSON LAW OFFICE, LLC
Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg.
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile No.: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**RICARDO E. ANTONIO, as Guardian
Ad Litem for ALDRIC JON H.
ANTONIO, a minor and ALMA I.
HABOS,**

Plaintiffs,

vs.

HAENG C. BAEK and DOES I-V.

Defendant.

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 14-0178**

**AMENDED
SUMMONS**

TO: DEFENDANTS, HAENG C. BAEK and DOES I-V

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to appear and defend the claims presented in this Amended Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Amended Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Responsive Pleading to the Plaintiffs' counsel whose address is at Thompson Law Office, LLC, 2nd Floor JET Building, PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Responsive Pleading.

Your Responsive Pleading to the Amended Complaint should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. It may be prepared and signed by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by electronic filing or by messenger or mail. It is not necessary to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to appear and defend in accordance with this Amended Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in this Amended Complaint.

By Order of the Court
Date: December 10, 2014

/s/ **CLERK OF COURT**

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING
CORPORATION,**

Plaintiff,

-v-

**ROY ROGER KAIPAT and
CASILDA I. KAIPAT,**

Defendants.

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 13-0069**

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 14, 2014, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 1322, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 24, dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 96-2567, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 22, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of April, 2015:

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**Maureen Basa
Deleon Guerrero
Petitioner,**

vs.

**Edward Cabrera
Deleon Guerrero
Respondent,**

**FCD-DI CIVIL
ACTION
NO. 12-0476**

**SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 5508 CHRB as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of April, 2015.

/s/ **Clerk of Court**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**MHS to issue report cards**

Marianas High School will be distributing its 4th quarter mid-progress report cards on May 14, 2015, at the MHS Dolphin Gymnasium from 4pm to 6pm. This is a great opportunity to talk to the teachers about your child. See you there! Should you have any questions or need to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. For news and information about our school, check out our website at www.marian-ashighschool.com. (MHS)

Family grief support meeting on May 7

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, May 7, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. For more information, email tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson at 989-9821. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (TCF)

BSI executive on John Gonzales LIVE!

John Gonzales LIVE will feature the topic "BSI invests in the Marianas: Overview and what next?" today, May 6, 2015 on TV Channel 14. It will have Best Sunshine CEO Mark Brown as special guest. The show is from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on TV Chan-

nel 14. To participate in the discussion, contact via email at johngonzaleslive@gmail.com or text 285-META (6382). The show will be replayed on Monday, May 11, and Tuesday, May 12. (PR)

CNMI Museum board meeting schedule

The CNMI Museum of History and Culture will be holding a regular meeting of its board of governors on Friday, May 8, at 9am at the NMI Humanities Council conference room. The agenda will include the election of officers, a review of the museum work plan and preparations for the development of a strategic plan, and upcoming projects. A finalized agenda will be available prior to and at the meeting. This meeting is open to the public. You may contact Robert Hunter at the CNMI Museum, 664-2160, for more information. (PR)

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- May 6 and 7, from 10am to 2pm
- May 8, from 10am to 4pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. (PR)

HANMI launches anniversary logo contest

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is holding a logo design contest this month to mark its 30th anniversary.

HANMI is welcoming entries for a commemorative logo designed by CNMI school students in grades 6-12. The deadline for submission is 5pm, May 26, 2015, and the winner will be announced at the Taste of the Marianas on May 30, 2015. Cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 will be awarded to first, second, and third place, respectively.

"We're excited to involve the students in our anniversary celebration, and we look forward to seeing their ideas of



what they feel HANMI contributes to and means in our community," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh.

The theme of the contest is, "Building a Stronger Commonwealth with You Since 1985." The logo must contain the words "HANMI" and "30th Anniversary." Submissions may be made in any two-dimensional paper medium (i.e. ink, marker, computer-generated). Logos must be submitted to the Kanoa Resort Saipan front desk by the deadline and must include the

student's name, teacher's name, school, and grade level.

For more information about the logo contest and other anniversary activities, visit the HANMI 30th Anniversary Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HANMI30.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. Today the association is composed of 11 of the major hotels in the Northern Marianas serving a diversity of markets including Korea, Japan, China, and Russia. The association also has a growing number of associate members in related industries. (HANMI)



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JSA creates CNMI Scholarship Fund for island students

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The Junior State of America has established a CNMI Scholarship Fund on its webpage to benefit students in the Northern Marianas as they raise funds to attend one of the program's three-week summer courses in governance, policy making, history, and leadership. The summer classes take place in prestigious universities such as Stanford, Georgetown, and Princeton.

In a letter addressed to U.S. territory parents and students, JSA explained that donations may be made at jsa.org/donate. Benefac-

tors are asked to designate "CNMI Summer Scholarship Fund" in the memo line of the check, or notify the program by email or phone about the designation for the on-line contribution.

With the community's support, the organization said, students from all walks of life can participate in this life-changing program.

"It is important for CNMI teens, regardless of income, to receive top-notch leadership training," they added.

The Department of the Interior awards full scholarships to four high school students to attend the program every year. Twenty-

eight students from U.S. territories and Freely Associated States are awarded scholarships annually as well. However, a number of other teenagers, who are accepted to the universities' competitive courses do not receive full financial aid and are responsible to raise money for travel, food, and room-and-board expenses.

Kagman High School is one institution whose students were accepted into JSA's programs at Stanford and Princeton this year.

One parent, Ivan Blanco, told *Saipan Tribune* that he and his family were able to raise a portion of the funds, but still needs

assistance to send his daughter and her peers to the mainland.

"I'm reaching out to generous benefactors in our business community to donate directly to JSA Program, a nonprofit with 501(c) designation, on behalf of the CNMI students to cover their tuition and travel costs," he said. "... We can all rally our donors to help all of them out to go and experience the program, build their self-confidence and aspire to become better stewards and citizens."

Since 1991, 400 students from the CNMI have attended JSA Summer Programs, often graduating with honors.

MVA in planning stage for Saipan Tropical Relay

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is in the initial stages of planning for a new relay-style event that is popular among families in Japan, according to MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

Called the Saipan Tropical Ekiden 2015, the relay-style event is planned for this August in Garapan. MVA's Japan ad-hoc committee recommended the event after finding out that it is very popular in Japan, especially for families, as a form of "fun run."

MVA board members approved in March a budget of up to \$50,000 for the Ekiden running event. However, MVA didn't approve the original date of the event as March is peak season for the islands' tourism industry.

Last Thursday, the board moved for the event's staging to August.

Duenas said they are still in the early planning stages so there may be several changes as they move forward.

Duenas said that MVA will be the main organizer, while the Japan-Saipan Cul-

tural Exchange Association will serve as co-organizer.

There will be two types of courses: a town course and a seaside course. For the first half of the race, the runners will run through Garapan. After sunset, the course will then shift to the beach.

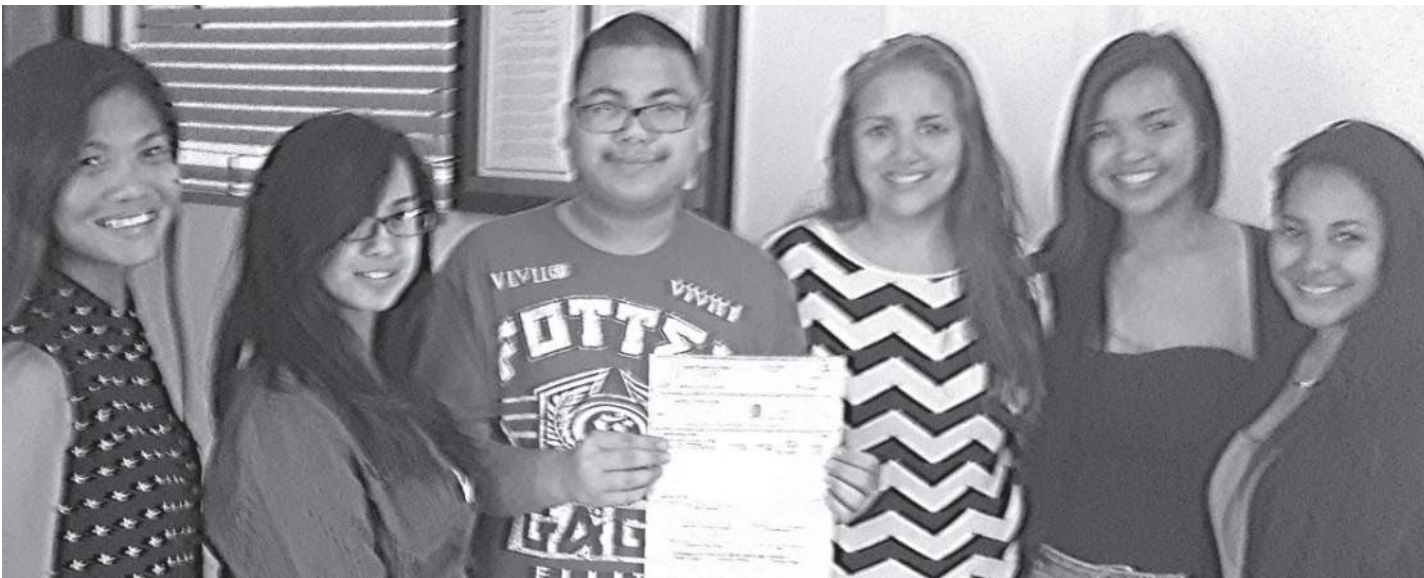
For the adult division, each team will continue running around a 2-km course from 4pm to 8pm. MVA will give awards to the five teams that complete the most laps.

The maximum capacity for the course is 100 teams. Teams can consist of members of two to 10 people. Children who participate in this category must be in the same team as their parents.

For the composite division, each team will run around a 2-km course from 4pm to 8pm. Capacity is 100 teams as well and entry conditions apply to those 18 and over; however, high school students will not be allowed to join this division.

There will also be a family run from 5:30pm to 6pm. Children and their parents can join this run for a family experience.

There are fees and conditions that participants need to pay and follow in order to join the race.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROM DONATION

Island Training Solutions recently made a donation to Saipan Southern High School's prom committee. Shown from left are Ferleen Esmundo (prom committee advisor), Angela Cruz (prom committee member), Zachary Taitano (prom committee member), Celya Kaufer (prom committee member), Therese Tenorio (prom committee member), and Cassandra Royal (prom committee member). According to committee adviser Ferleen Esmundo, "This donation will be a major help in making our prom successful this year. Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts!"

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN AMENDMENT
FY 2015-2016

Goal Areas

EMPLOYMENT: GOAL 1

TRANSPORTATION: GOAL 2

EMERGENCY & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: GOAL 3

SELF-ADVOCACY: GOAL 4

SELF-ADVOCACY: GOAL 5

RESPIRE CARE: GOAL 6

RESPIRE CARE: GOAL 7

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years and review goals and make amendments if needed on an annual basis. Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting public hearings on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on how best the Council can and should serve all individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. During the public hearings, all persons with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, the general public will be provided the opportunity to review and offer comment or input on the goals, objectives and activities of its proposed **FY 2015 & FY 2016 STATE PLAN AMENDMENTS**. The proposed State Plan Amendments will cover periods beginning fiscal years 2015 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these hearings will be incorporated in the proposed State Plan Amendments for FY 2015 and FY 2016. Person interested may pick up a hard copy at our office or visit our website at www.cnmicdd.org

Schedule of Public Hearings

TINIAN	
When: May 6, 2015 (Wednesday)	When: May 7, 2015 (Thursday)
Where: Tinian High School	Where: JC Café, Tinian
Time: 9:30am-11:30am	Time: 9:30-11:30 & 1pm to 4pm
&	
Where: NMC-Room D Tinian Campus	
Time: 1:30pm to 4:00pm	

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the Public Hearing, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Alternative formats of the proposed State Plan Amendments for FY 2015 & FY 2016 is available upon request.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PUBLIC NOTICE TO CONDUCT FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEWS FOR 2017-2021 FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN
2017 - 2021

Goal Areas

EMPLOYMENT

TRANSPORTATION

EDUCATION & EARLY INTERVENTION

HEALTH

CHILD CARE

HOUSING

RECREATION

QUALITY ASSURANCE (SELF-ADVOCACY, ABUSE PREVENTION, MONITORING OF SERVICES/SUPPORTS AND ASSISTANCE)

OTHER SERVICE ISSUES:

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities (CNMI CDD) is seeking public input for FY 2017-2021 Developmental Disabilities Basic Grant State Plan Areas of Emphasis/Goal Areas. Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting Focus Group Interviews on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on how the Council can develop its priorities for improving services in the CNMI over the next five (5) Years. During the focus group interview, all persons with developmental disabilities, their families, friends, the general public will be given the opportunity to provide their input on the Areas of Emphasis/Goal Areas for 2017-2021 STATE PLAN by participating in a survey. Your input is important to the work of the Council. Persons interested to participate in the Focus Group Interview may call, visit our office, participate by completing the survey on our website www.cnmicdd.org or visit the locations on the dates listed below: : **CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, P.O. Box 502565, Saipan MP 96950 - 1312 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan - (670) 664-7000/1**

(670) 664-7030 Fax or 711 Telecommunication Relay Services or Email: info@cnmicdd.org.

Schedule of Focus Group Interview

TINIAN	
When: May 6, 2015 (Wednesday)	When: May 7, 2015 (Thursday)
Where: Tinian High School	Where: JC Café, Tinian
Time: 9:30am-11:30am	Time: 9:30-11:30 & 1pm to 4pm
&	
Where: NMC-Room D Tinian Campus	
Time: 1:30pm to 4:00pm	

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least five (5) working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements. **Alternative formats of the survey is available upon request.**

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part B.

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711

CNMI's Tamangided joins Obama, top educators in DC

By **THOMAS MANGLONA II**
CORRESPONDENT

CNMI Teacher of the Year Marvin Tamangided traveled to the nation's capital last week to join U.S. President Barack Obama and 55 other leading state teachers in the annual State Teachers of the Year Recognition Ceremony.

The Rota educator also participated in workshops and education forums hosted by Microsoft.

"The most memorable part of the trip was meeting the United States President in the Oval Office," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "As I entered the Oval Office, I kept thinking about all the hard-working educators in our great Commonwealth."

Tamangided said he told the President that he "traveled many miles to see you and though I am only one person physically present, I am also joined in spirit by all the educators from the Northern Marianas, some of the best teachers in the nation."

Tamangided said he bonded easily with the other teachers and considers it a privilege to have met them.

"They are passionate educators who strive to improve our educational system. Each and every one of them has become a



CNMI Teacher of the Year Marvin Tamangided, third from right, poses for a photo with other state teachers of the year and President Barack Obama during the annual recognition ceremony at the nation's capital.

dear friend. One thing I learned is that we have more in common than differences," he added.

He explained that although some school districts are smaller

than others, they all share the passion, commitment, concerns, and challenges in student learning.

"When putting all awards aside, we are simply educators

who understand students."

After returning from Washington, D.C., Tamangided said he and the other state teachers now have the responsibility of improv-

ing the local and national educational system. He explained that involving teachers in policy making is one way of doing that.

"Oftentimes teachers are left

out from policy discussions. That is a problem because teachers are the experts in classroom instruction. As state teachers, we must elevate teacher voices in policy-making decision," he explained. "Teachers are the ones who directly work with students, so if teachers are heard, then students are heard."

Tamangided plans to advocate for a teacher representative on the CNMI State Board of Education—a matter that he said must be resolved by the Legislature.

He will also be proposing a hybrid-teacher program, an alternative for teacher leadership in schools.

"What happens a lot in schools is that great teachers become full time administrators. But what if we figure out a way where teachers can take on real administrator roles but not completely leave the classroom? I want to serve in this way."

As the islands' PSS ambassador, Tamangided hopes to inspire his own students with his experiences.

"Even if we come from small islands in the Western Pacific, we can still collaborate and contribute with some of the nation's brightest people," he said.

Saipan Tribune is looking for a is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

News Reporter

Qualifications:

- Can work within deadlines.
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.
- Must have a four year degree in Journalism, English, or related fields.
- Must have at least two years experience.
- Must be able to work on weekends, holidays, and at night.
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, May 15, 2015.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Advertising Sales Agent

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, May 21, 2015.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



Procurement And Supply CNMI Government



INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-090

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 29, 2015

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) JET SKIS AND ONE (1) DUAL JET SKI TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in any bid in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) VACANT PROPERTIES - PORT OF SAIPAN CPA-RFP-002-15

APRIL 16, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTING SEALED PROPOSALS, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (THE "RFP") AND OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS, FOR AWARDED A LEASE CONTRACT FOR ONE, TWO AND/OR THREE REAL PROPERTY LEASES ON AUTHORITY PROPERTY ON SAIPAN, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THE AUTHORITY HAS THREE (3) VACANT PROPERTY LOTS AVAILABLE FOR LEASE IN AN AREA ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL.

THIS RFP IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 40-50, PROCUREMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS OF TITLE 40 OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (THE "NMIAC"). TITLE 40, INCLUDING CHAPTER 40-50-225, **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**, IS APPLICABLE TO THE PROCESS FOLLOWED BY THE RFP.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROPERTY DETAILS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR – ARRIVAL TERMINAL AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 22, 2015, BETWEEN 7:30 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M.

PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITY AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR – ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON **JUNE 8TH, 2015**.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ By: MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director



"On the morning of May 3, 2015, as I was doing my grocery shopping at Green Consume Market in As Lito, the bright colored tickets hanging in front of the cashier caught my attention and I became curious to find out what they are. As I was emptying my cart and the cashier was adding the merchandise, I decided to purchase four Hafa Adai Scratchies worth \$4. Trying my luck, I began scratching each one, getting more and more anxious to win something. To my surprise, I won a thousand dollars!! Out of excitement, shock and nervousness, I asked my cousin to verify if I really did win, and it was a real winning ticket!"

- Mr. Ulloa

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A destination of choice

Saipan is billed as a “destination of choice” to Sinosphere visitors. The CNMI declared May as Tourism Month, with improved infrastructures so visitors drive through urban roads with sidewalks, walk in a lit lagoon pathway, and swim in lifeguarded hotel shores, along with driving adventure in rustic back roads on rugged terrain.

Heavy duty four-wheelers with drivers geared with crash helmets in addition to the vehicles’ sturdy chassis, drive on the imagined safari wildness, never mind that the architecture of houses along Mt. Tapuchau Road are akin to any gated community in the world.

Four-wheelers abound along the path fronting farms on the leeward side of Mt. Tapuchau, displaying even female drivers on the steering wheel! With the tall bush and gutted roads, the roughriders think themselves in the wild, an exciting experience for young city folks from Korea and Japan (the southern Chinese are not as interested except to drive youthful cars out to the beach with duos hauling a kid or two around favored SUVs to the Grotto). The distinctive vroom-vroom-vroom assaults do not seem to bother the tranquility of indigene dwellings.

This small 5x12 mile part—navigable from Marpi to Obyan and return in two hours through decent roads with reasonable speed limits that allows local drivers to let pedestrians cross safely—takes longer to circumnavigate by sail, the Pacific side tending to be rough. The pathway walk between JP Center and Vicente “Pacho” Masga Sablan Supe Beach Park is great for the joints and the muscle tones.

The upland “wilderness” will last long as the drive-in-the-wild is kept to the rugged back roads while the planned cable-and-lift from Garapan accesses Mt. Tapuchau, leaving the top’s road to residents’ SUVs and 4x4s to vie with the four-wheelers, bikers, and the Good Friday procession of the faithful!

What have we got to offer visitors mostly from China, Korea and Japan? The beaches and the lagoon are givens, Mañagaha a gem to be protected. Tinian and Rota are adventures, and a sailboat ride on a three-person catamaran is a special treat, if one can still find a reliable navigator. A mile out offers endless exploits.

Humvee (H2), Camaro, Mustang, and the door-flying Corvette for 6/12-hour rentals are available to the tourists. Homeland Japan zeroes in on the 5 percent of Chinese who have passports, and extra *renminbi* to burn at the boutique stores, so Ginza and Shinjuku are awash with Yuan turned Yen.

Guests also discover that shopping on Saipan offers no break compared to Shanghai, Seoul, or Tokyo. T Galleria’s Marian Pierce might want to double check the shopping angle! But clearly, the waters of shores and wildness of a tropical isle, if left clear and clean, are our assets to protect.

The boat ride to Mañagaha is a must while the seasoned guests snorkel and scuba dive in shores with currents. Locals still get a Mañagaha free ride, but a call for reservation is needed, and guests dole out an Andrew Jackson to get on board. A destination of choice, indeed.

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Hillary Clinton’s conflict-of-interest problems

The harshest charges against Hillary Rodham Clinton—that she made decisions that favored donors to her family’s charitable foundation when she was secretary of state—aren’t sticking. Yes, the Obama administration approved a donor’s sale of U.S. uranium mines to a Russian firm, but Clinton does not appear to have been involved. Yes, the administration concluded a trade treaty with Colombia that benefited Clinton Foundation donors, but that was President Obama’s decision, not Clinton’s. And yes, Clinton lobbied foreign governments on behalf of donors such as General Electric and Boeing—but that’s part of every secretary of State’s job description.

Still, that doesn’t mean candidate Clinton has emerged unscathed from the swamp of accusations and innuendoes stirred up by conservative author Peter Schweizer in a book scheduled for publication this week. The front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination still has some explaining to do.

When she was nominated as secretary of State in 2009, Clinton promised that she would bend over backward to avoid potentially compromising situations.

“Out of (an) abundance of caution and a desire to avoid even the appearance ... of a conflict,” Clinton said, the foundation would agree to strict rules: It would disclose all its donors and clear new contributions from foreign governments with the State Department.

Only that didn’t happen. The biggest branch of the Clintons’ charitable network, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, never complied with the agreement at all, according to the Boston Globe. It neither disclosed its donors nor cleared new contributions. (A spokesman said they didn’t think it was necessary. After media inquiries, the program published a list of donors last month.) The Clinton Foundation also failed to clear a donation of \$500,000 from Algeria. (An oversight, the foundation said.) And the foundation’s Canadian affiliate collected millions of dollars without disclosing donors’ names. (Canadian law guarantees privacy to donors, but the foundation could have asked them to voluntarily disclose their identities; it didn’t until last week.)

Beyond the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates, former President Bill Clinton’s personal income has raised eyebrows, too.

Thanks to the Washington Post, we have learned that Bill Clinton made almost \$105 million giving speeches from 2001 to 2012—and his biggest fees came from foreign hosts while his wife was secretary of State: \$1.4 million from a Nigerian media firm (for two visits to Lagos); \$750,000 from the Swedish telecommunication giant Ericsson; \$600,000 from Dutch financial firm Achmea; and \$500,000 from Renaissance Capital, a Russian investment bank with ties to Vladimir Putin’s Kremlin.

The former president did take one sensible precaution: He cleared his speech gigs with State Department ethics lawyers. According to records obtained by the gadfly group Judicial Watch, the lawyers

By **DOYLE MCMANUS**
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com



approved every one of the 215 speeches that were proposed.

There’s nothing illegal about any of that; other former presidents have accepted giant speaking fees, too. Ronald Reagan once picked up \$2 million for a trip to Japan—and that was in 1989 dollars.

But there’s nothing pretty about that picture, either. Even though the lawyers approved the deals, dozens of the firms that paid Bill Clinton were doing business with the U.S. government at the time. Surely Hillary Clinton’s 2009 promise to avoid “even the appearance” of any conflict of interest should have applied to her spouse as well as the family foundation—right?

The Clinton Foundation has taken one step in the direction of reform: It said it would stop taking money from most foreign governments while one of its namesakes is running for president. For the most part, though, Clinton has tried to deal with bad press by either ignoring it or deploying underlings to attack her critics.

That’s not going to work; Clinton’s problems won’t just go away.

A successful candidate, at least in the Democratic primaries, needs to reassure voters that she can reduce the impact of money in politics and restore confidence in government. Right now, Clinton can’t do that credibly.

And Clinton’s conflict-of-interest problems will dog her in the debates that will begin in August. “The Clinton Foundation ... that’s a fair issue,” Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont said Thursday as he announced his candidacy. (The bigger issue, he added, is “the huge amount of money it takes to run a campaign.”)

Hillary Clinton can’t undo the past. But here are four things she can do to improve the situation now: She can press the Clinton Foundation and its affiliates for disclosure of all donors, in belated compliance with the agreement they made in 2009. She can ask the foundation to tighten its limits on foreign donations—for example, to cover individuals with close ties to foreign governments. She can ask her husband to tighten his criteria for speaking fees, too, and make it clear that he’ll donate his biggest paychecks to charity. Most important, she can spell out the rules she expects her family to live under if voters decide to put her in the White House.

Last week, I asked the Clinton campaign if they saw merit in any of those ideas. I haven’t heard back.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reviewing abandoned homes

The number of abandoned houses throughout homestead subdivisions has piqued my interest, specifically what caused the trashing of the first family home. Research was done a year ago that probed the issue to the core. Surprising the results of findings that revealed the primary culprits. It includes the following:

Dumping 50 cents for every dollar of the family income in poker arcades. We refuse to admit in grand self-denial the fangs of a very destructive family scourge. It is the primary culprit in the loss and abandonment of the first family home. It leaches into sacrificing other basic family needs just to meet this destructive addiction. Coupled with another destructive addiction—use of crystal meth—and it's a homerun in complete family bankruptcy.

There's the combined downsizing of private industries that released resident workers for CW-1 employees that resulted in joblessness. If you disagree, then why are there still some 15K guest workers here? Understandably, there's the head on collision in value system—resident workers could afford delinquency while guest workers treat employment seriously. The low minimum wage factors into the loss of the family home and lack of ability to sustain paying for family obligations.

The granting of loan to applicants who simply don't have the income to sustain paying for the first family home. It led to non-payment and subsequent foreclosure. It is especially hard for those who became victims of political retaliation—loss of government jobs—for marching behind the wrong politician.

When do we admit that this scourge has ruined family wellbeing Marianas-wide? Do we have the courage to rid families of their destructive gambling addiction? It's loss of family homes now; what's next?

Important: Legacy building

There are several meanings of the word legacy. One pertains to something passed on by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. Let's bring this closer to home.

Let's use an athletic metaphor (lingo) in hopes of establishing an understanding of the term. We've seen some of the best baseball pitchers here, from Uncles Jose Magoffin, Rick (Ruth) Sablan and Logrigo (Digu') Camacho, to Tony Satur and Tony Benavente.

Thugs do exist, and we need responsible individuals to police them

WASHINGTON—A thug by any other name, like a rose, is still a thug. Thugs come in all hues—white, brown, black and in between. They even come in police uniforms. Thugs can be found everywhere.

The origin of the word “thug” derives from a murderous cult of religious assassins in India during British colonial days who went around strangling their political enemies and anyone else who stood in their way. They worshiped Kali, a god of destruction, hence the term thug applies to any cutthroat or ruffian. And that is an exact description of those who used Freddie Gray's death as an excuse for mayhem. There can be no concern about political correctness or attempted justification based on a history of deprivation of civil rights. These people were even disavowed by the responsible generation of their own community.

Calling someone a thug then is not a racial epithet no matter what the African-American mayor of Baltimore might think after she apologized for initially using the term to describe those who burned, looted and generally trashed her city. She was right in the first place despite pangs to her conscience that had a distinct political coloration. Reportedly she is considered less culturally black by a number of her constituents who took immediate exception to her label of the rioters who seemed less concerned about the unjust death in police custody of one of their own than they were in robbing and burning stores in their neighborhoods.

She was wrong when her mea culpa to the black community included a contention that Baltimore was a city devoid of thugs made apparently on advice of her handlers. In fact, the victims of these thugs were also black and the six police officers who fit the classic definition of thuggish behavior in their actions were equally divided racially, white and black.

Interestingly, the resulting charges launched against the six officers, five males and one woman, who participated in the highly questionable arrest and further action that took Gray's life were from another African American official: first-term state's attorney Marilyn Mosby.

She not only understood what had taken place but made it clear

Each has a history of records difficult to match as powerful hurlers on the diamond years ago.

What's your contribution beyond looking dapper and suspiciously smart? Would it be cockfighting, roadside trash collection, chasing stray dogs, pantie hanging prohibition, and tinted windshields?

Are we supposed to blindly take these trivial issues as significant constructive policies that would help revive the local economy? It's economic dystopia where nothing works, right? How could you have missed it?

Are you suffering from perception, lack of purpose and integrity lapses? Is situational abject poverty (resulting from your doing a whale lot of nothing) the indelible legacy you wish to leave behind? You see, we don't want to embarrass you for doing what you do best: nothing!

What creates jobs?

Took a quick survey to find out if our people understand what creates jobs. Most had no clue but were quick to point to government.

“Isn't it that we have over 4,000 public sector employees?” I pressed if this sector generates profit the way private industries do? No answer.

Actually, it begins with an entrepreneurship that sees a need for a certain service. He organizes a business that includes hiring people to partake in providing the planned service. It would have to be profitable and sustainable in order to keep his employees.

The businessman pays income taxes from profits he made. His employees also pay income taxes. This often includes paying a certain amount for health insurance too. So you could imagine how hard he has to work daily to stay above water.

If politicians claim they create jobs it's best that they stick it in their ears. Why do I want a job that requires my kissing their filthy ring? My personal dignity and dedication to get ahead rise above corrupt favors. “People need jobs, and millions find dignity in work, but not from jobs that others are forced to provide. People want to be genuinely useful. They don't just want to go through the motions.”

Hocog's \$400K: Through the grapevine I heard that the \$400,000 to subsidize the fuel cost of the MF *Luta* has been released. What's the source of authority allowing for the release of such a huge

By DAN K. THOMASSON

Tribune News Service

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at: danthomasson@verizon.net.



that Baltimore's epidemic of intolerable police behavior to those in the inner city was about to end. The city has paid out millions of dollars to the victims of such action by cops.

Her swift response which ranged from illegal assault to second-degree murder allegations puts her high up on the list of courageous prosecutors, not to mention future political consideration.

From Ferguson, Mo., to Baltimore, the incidences of unjustified force by police has not only shocked us but made us desperately aware of a need for better screening, training, and compensation for those who enforce our laws and provide our security. Something has been terribly overlooked in the criminal justice system. Better pay for a difficult, often-life threatening task might help bring to the job a better qualified individual who understands his or her obligations to those they serve no matter their station in life.

There are, of course, tens of thousands of law officers who do understand. Many face every day that dreaded time when something goes wrong and lives are threatened but stand steadfast in their determination not to act unfairly, even if it might be to their own detriment.

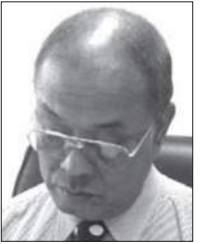
I am reminded of a young federal agent who one noon along with two of his companions faced a showdown with a trio of Los Angeles gang bangers who were gun traffickers. Only a few yards apart, the bullets began to fly, wounding one agent and at least one of the thugs. In his shooting stance, the young agent hesitated because down the street he saw a young boy riding a big wheel in the direct line of fire. His hesitation could have cost his life, but fortunately the youngster had cleared the danger zone quickly and the young agent survived to save his wounded partner and ultimately to receive a medal of valor.

There are thousands more of these responsible young men and women in our law enforcement establishment than those who, as Mosby said, put themselves “above the law.” But don't misunderstand. Thugs come in all dimensions and stopping them is a never ending task ... even in Baltimore.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



taxpayers' subsidy? Was it duly appropriated and specifically earmarked for such purpose?

What about other businesses struggling to stay above water, don't they also deserve taxpayer subsidies? Other businesses muddling through thick bad times also deserve subsidies! The AG and OPA must zero-in on this highly questionable use of public funds.

How dreams can paralyze graduates

By ELIZABETH GREIWE

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When I was in sixth grade, I had one goal: to be on Broadway. By eighth grade, I wanted to be a teacher. The following years brought fantasies of being a baker, journalist, environmental crusader, crayon color-namer, taste tester, photographer and rock band drummer.

I trudged off to college with a vague idea of being all those things. Now, as I'm about to graduate, I'm left with one nagging question: What do I do with my life?

I'm not the only one asking. From day one, we millennials have been told we can do anything, be anyone—as if we know what we want to do and be.

This month, masses of soon-to-be college graduates will sit through commencement speeches with the same message comedian Ellen DeGeneres gave at Tulane University in New Orleans in 2009: “Follow your passion, stay true to yourself.”

Or what Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin told Saint Vincent College in Pennsylvania in 2008: “You must continue to dream the wild dream that you dreamed when you were young.”

“Dream” and “passion” are empty words at this point. They're meant to be printed on pillows and posters, not banded about at graduation ceremonies.

Dreams are finicky things, after all. They fleet. They fly. They rarely stick around for long. We flirt with dreams; we don't marry them. And yet commencement speakers—often the “1 percent” of dream achievers—tell college students year after year that dreams do, in fact, come true.

The idea is so common that a nationwide study conducted over 17 years by Arizona State University researchers Jenifer Partch and Richard Kinnier found “never give up” and “be true to yourself” were two of the most-used college commencement speech themes.

Which, to be honest, isn't terrible advice. But you have to take a commencement speech for what it really is: a last-ditch effort to give students well-grounded advice. It's a way to wrap up the college experience in an easy-to-digest, 15-minute package.

What's the real best advice for students?

Don't limit yourself.

For those born with the dream-chasing gene, it won't be a commencement speech that persuades them to go after it. For every other lost college kid, though, this idea of a dream—some guiding life goal—carries too much baggage. It leaves no wiggle room and paralyzes graduates.






So speakers, spend your precious amount of time spreading another message. Don't tell us what we want to hear; tell us what we need to hear. Remind us that it's OK to be lost, and that we don't have to define ourselves by our careers. Say it's possible to lead a meaningful, fulfilling life while working a job you only sort of like. Hobbies exist for a reason. A life lived for family, friends and Sunday afternoons is one well-lived.

To some, this sounds like a cop-out—a scared almost-college grad's self-pacifying cry for help. A passion-free future doesn't negate the importance of hard work and determination, though. Instead, it puts an emphasis on reinvention and flexibility. Life is a lot less scary if you're not stuck to one version of yourself.

Then, at the end of the day, you didn't fail. You just changed course.

Elizabeth Greiwe is the Chicago Tribune's Editorial Board coordinator.

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 81
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 89	▼ 80
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼ 77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 81
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 82

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70	▼ 62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76	▼ 49
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 78
Honolulu	Windy	▲ 82	▼ 69
London	Showers	▲ 61	▼ 52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 94	▼ 78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 74	▼ 57
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62	▼ 49
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 81	▼ 62
Paris	Rain	▲ 54	▼ 49
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 72	▼ 55
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69	▼ 56
Salem	Sunny	▲ 71	▼ 45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 81	▼ 56
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 78	▼ 59
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 72	▼ 54



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Saipan Harbor			
4:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
11:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Today	5:53 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:37 PM

Today	8:29 PM	7:22 AM
Thursday	9:22 PM	8:13 AM
Friday	10:16 PM	9:06 AM
Saturday	11:08 PM	10:02 AM
Sunday		10:58 AM

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SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7
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UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7
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DL287 6:05am 1:05am+1 2, 6 via NRT

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
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3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
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MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
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3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6
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OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:30pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ624/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ624/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

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DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

IT&E lowers long distance call rate to Nepal

TO BRING MODERN AMERICAN GLAMOUR TO FLYING

Delta, Zac Posen team up on new uniform designs

Delta Air Lines and New York-based designer Zac Posen are partnering to bring high fashion and function to a different kind of runway as part of Delta's new uniform program.

Delta is creating a program for nearly all of its uniformed employees. Through the partnership, Posen will design a uniform collection for Delta's flight attendants and airport customer service agents while advising on the uniform project for Delta's ramp and ground support agents, Delta Cargo agents and Delta TechOps employees.

"Through challenges and triumphs, the Delta uniform has been a source of great pride for generations of Delta people and continues to serve as a symbol of our values and the world class service for which we're known," said Tim Mapes, Delta's senior vice president for marketing. "With Zac's talent and expertise, and in partnership with Delta people worldwide, we look forward to creating a timeless, fashionable and functional new collection that will continue to be a point of pride and symbol of our brand for the 170 million customers who fly with us each year."

Known for his fresh and innovative designs, Posen's brand of modern American glamour pairs well with Delta's brand attributes, and he will be personally engaged throughout the multi-year project. His designs are favored from the White House to the red carpet in Hollywood.

"I'm thrilled to partner with this classic American brand and look forward to collaborating with Delta employees to understand their wants and needs for the new collection," said Posen. "Together, we will bring everyday elegance and style innovation to the ground and air alike, while making employees look and feel their best."

» New uniform collection expected to debut in 2018

Over the next few months, Posen will work with Delta employees to better understand the specialized needs of Delta's active workforce. The prototypes will then undergo intensive wear testing to ensure functionality and fit before the final collection is produced. Consistent with Delta's culture, employees will drive the project and be heavily involved in every phase along the way.

The new uniform program is part of a larger brand transformation and investment as Delta works to ensure its thoughtful, reliable and innovative brand attributes imbue all areas of the customer experience, including airport facilities, technology and global products and services.

The new collection is expected to launch in early 2018. *(Delta)*

With the heartbreaking devastation caused by the recent earthquake in Nepal, IT&E is now offering for a limited time to the entire CNMI community a discounted rate of \$0.25 per minute for all long distance calls to Nepal.

From now until June 5, 2015, IT&E customers who want to contact family or friends in Nepal can do so without having to pay the regular rate. The discounted rate is available to IT&E customers on their landlines, postpaid and prepaid cell phones, and using IT&E long distance cards.

Nepal's infrastructure, including the country's phone network, is still recovering. Callers should be aware that this may hamper your calling efforts.

IT&E CNMI general manager Rose A. Soledad said: "IT&E stands by its commitment to support the people when unforeseen circumstances can cause substantial damage or hinder the quality of life. After all, we are all a part of this community."

For more information, stop by any IT&E store location or contact us at (670) 682-4483, via facebook at www.facebook.com/ITE.CNMI, or on Instagram at [ITE_CNMI](https://www.instagram.com/ITE_CNMI). *(IT&E)*

Beach cleaners: People are dumping trash all over

"People are dumping trash all over the place."

That's how one group participating in the Beautify My Marianas program sees it, after doing several cleanups in separate locations around Saipan.

On April 11, 2015, Friends for Life picked up trash along a two-mile stretch from Oleai Beach to Sugar Dock in Susupe.

"We found our faces in gruesome trash...such as many beer cans and plates with leftover meals...plastic bottles, plastic bags, plastic forks, plastic spoons, foam plates, tissues, cardboard, soda cans, and juice boxes," said the group in their post-cleanup report. "It's making this place look filthy because people are dumping trash



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends for Life cleaned from Oleai Beach to Sugar Dock on April 11, 2015, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends for Life cleaned from Oleai Beach to Sugar Dock on April 11, 2015, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.

all over the place."

The Beautify My Marianas program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas and is coordinated by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Marians Outrigger Club cleaned at Obyan Beach and Ladder Beach on April 12, 2015.

The bulk of trash found at Ladder Beach was in the caves where people normally go for partying or bonfires, said the group in their report. "Surprisingly there wasn't much trash. It pales in comparison to Sugar Dock and behind Aquarius [Beach Tower]."

"If we want visitors to think our islands are a special place to visit, we also need to act like it's a special place,"

said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Many beachgoers have good intentions and bag their trash, but stray dogs can come along and easily rip open those bags. We're encouraging everyone to go the extra mile and ensure their trash bags are not left lying around. This is one of the best ways we can help end this trash problem, for all our sakes."

For more information on Beautify My Marianas or an application, visit the MVA homepage at www.mymarianas.com. Groups must apply to participate and document their cleanup with a written report, list of participants, and photos. *(MVA)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club cleaned at Obyan Beach and Ladder Beach on April 12, 2015, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.



FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Zoned Beauty Care owners Edwin, left, and Corazon Maratas, right, join their staff, second from left, Veron, Anne, Tammy, and Mildred as they celebrate their first year anniversary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

17th Annual Taste of the Marianas kicks off

The 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden kicked off on Saturday, May 2, bringing some of the best of island cuisine and entertainment to American Memorial Park.

The event is held every Saturday evening beginning at 6pm in May as part of the monthlong celebration of Tourism Month in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"A great turnout," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio about opening night. "Thanks to the new site layout there was also more space, making the event more comfortable for the crowd."

The MVA, the Hotel Asso-

ciation of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the National Park Service jointly hosted the annual event.

Revelers joined two heats of the Hotdog Eating Competition, with Michael Alovera finishing first in the youth division, followed by Archival Vuasco in second place, and John Francis Santiago rounding out the winners in third place by default, having the least remaining hotdogs of all remaining competitors. In the adult division, it was a return of place finishers from prior years, with Andrew Songsong clearly nabbing first place, Simon Necesito demolishing his way to second place, and

Ramon Emul finishing third. The winners walked away with \$50, \$30, and \$20 worth of Taste tokens.

This Saturday, May 9, the Taste of the Marianas will feature the Pie-Eating Contest at the rear stage. At 8pm will be

the heat for contestants under age 18, with adults battling it out at 8:30pm. The entertainment lineup slated for this Saturday includes Out of the Ordinary Band, Rose Dance Studio, Jamaican Tangantangan, Simiyan Manainata, and JJ Concepcion

and the TRU Marianas.

"We want to remind patrons that this is the last Taste of the Marianas to redeem yellow \$1 tokens," said Tenorio. "Yellow tokens should be spent at the festival or redeemed for cash at the Marianas Visitors Authority office."

Taste of the Marianas offers international cuisine at affordable prices by 15 hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage, nightly contests on the secondary stage, and arts and crafts sales. (MVA)



MVA

Hopwood INATUAS performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015.



MVA

Pacific Islands Club Saipan and 14 other food and beverage vendors served up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015.



MVA

Hopwood INATUAS performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015.



MVA

Winners of the youth heat of the Hotdog Eating Competition take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager and emcee Bruce Bateman, Michael Alovera (first place), Archival Vuasco (second place), and John Francis Santiago (third place), and Festival coordinator Ryan Calvo.



MVA

Furusato Restaurant and 14 other food and beverage vendors serve up dinner and dessert on opening night of the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015.



MVA

Saipan Southern Warriors dance at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015.



Flores Siser performs at the 17th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



MVA

Winners of the adult heat of the Hotdog Eating Competition take a commemorative photo during the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 2, 2015. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager and emcee Bruce Bateman, Simon Necesito (second place), Andrew Songsong (first place), Ramon Emul (third place), and judges Juni Ramon and Naomi Santos.

Nation

FBI had investigated accused Texas gunman for years

WASHINGTON (AP)—Since 2006, the FBI had been investigating Elton Simpson—one of the men suspected in the Texas shootings outside a contest featuring cartoons of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad.

Agents recorded the young man from Phoenix talking about fighting nonbelievers for Allah. About plans to travel to South Africa and link up with “brothers” in Somalia. About using school as a cover story for traveling overseas.

Simpson was arrested in 2010, one day before authorities say he planned to leave for South Africa. But despite more than 1,500 hours of recorded conversations, the government prosecuted him on only one minor charge—lying to a federal agent. Years spent investigating Simpson for terrorism ties resulted in three years of probation and \$600 in fines and court fees.

Then, on Sunday, two men whom authorities identified as Simpson and Nadir Soofi opened fire in a Dallas suburb on an unarmed security officer stationed outside the contest. The officials spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation by name.

The deliberately provocative contest had been expected to draw outrage from the Muslim community. According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad—even a respectful one—is considered blasphemous, and drawings similar to those featured at the Texas event have sparked violence around the world.

Simpson and Soofi were wearing body armor, and one shot the security officer in the leg. Garland police spokesman Joe Harn said Monday that a single Garland police officer subdued the two gunmen but



An FBI crime scene investigator collects evidence outside the Curtis Culwell Center, Monday, May 4, 2015, in Garland, Texas.

that after his initial shots, SWAT officers nearby also fired at the two men. Harn said police don't know who fired the lethal shots.

The security officer was treated for his injury at a hospital and released.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said in a statement Monday that law enforcement

authorities are investigating the men's motives and all circumstances surrounding the attack.

“While all the facts are not in yet, last night's attack serves as a reminder that free and protected speech, no matter how offensive to some, never justifies violence of any sort,” Johnson said.

Simpson, described as quiet

and devout, had been on the radar of law enforcement because of his social media presence, but authorities did not have an indication that he was plotting an attack, said one federal official familiar with the investigation.

In a statement released late Monday by Phoenix law firm Osborn Maledon, Simpson's

family said it is “struggling to understand” how the incident happened.

“We are sure many people in this country are curious to know if we had any idea of Elton's plans,” the statement says. “To that we say, without question, we did not.”

The statement, which does not identify the relatives, also says the family is “heartbroken

and in a state of deep shock” and sends prayers to everyone affected by this “act of senseless violence,” especially the security guard who was injured.

Simpson had worshipped at the Islamic Community Center of Phoenix for about a decade, but he quit showing up over the past two or three months, the president of the mosque told The Associated Press.

Boston Marathon bomber cries at federal death penalty trial

BOSTON (AP)—For the first time in court, Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev dropped his blank, impassive demeanor and cried as his sobbing aunt briefly took the stand Monday in his federal death penalty trial.

Tsarnaev, 21, wiped tears from his eyes quickly and fidgeted in his chair as his mother's sister sobbed uncontrollably. He had maintained an uninterested expression since his trial began in January.

The aunt, Patimat Suleimanova, cried as she sat down about 10 feet from Tsarnaev. The tears began falling before she began to testify, and she was only able to answer questions about her name, her year of birth and where she was born.

After a few minutes, Judge George O'Toole Jr. suggested that the defense call a different witness so she could compose herself. As she left the witness stand, Tsarnaev used a tissue to wipe his eyes and nose.

Five relatives—three cousins and two aunts—took the witness stand, though the aunt who broke down did not complete her testimony. As Tsarnaev was led out of the court-

room before the lunch recess, he blew a kiss at the other aunt, who also cried during her testimony. The relatives acknowledged they had not seen Tsarnaev since he was 8, when he moved to the U.S. with his family.

Tsarnaev, who had lived in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Dagestan region of Russia, was convicted last month of 30 federal charges in the bombings, including 17 that carry the possibility of the death penalty. He moved to the U.S. in 2002 and committed the bombings, which killed three people and wounded 260 others, when he was 19.

Prosecutors say Tsarnaev and his radicalized older brother, Tamerlan, were equal partners in the bombing, and they have urged a jury to sentence Tsarnaev to death.

Tsarnaev's lawyers say Tamerlan, 26, was the mastermind of the attack and lured his brother into his plan. Tamerlan died days after the bombings following a shoot-out with police.

A cousin testified Monday that Dzhokhar was a kind and warm child, so gentle that he once cried while watching “The Lion King.”

‘Exceptional’ NYPD officer dies from gunshot wound to head

NEW YORK (AP)—A 25-year-old police officer shot in the head while attempting to stop a man suspected of carrying a handgun died Monday from his injuries, the third New York City officer slain on duty in five months.

Brian Moore, who was in a coma after undergoing brain surgery following the Saturday evening shooting, was pronounced dead at a Queens hospital with his family, including his police officer father, uncle and cousin, at his bedside.

Hundreds of uniformed officers stood at attention outside the hospital and lined up down the block to salute the ambulance carrying his body. Afterward, many could be seen crying and consoling one another.

“He proved himself to be

an exceptional young officer,” Police Commissioner William Bratton said, noting Moore had made more than 150 arrests in less than five years on the job and earned meritorious service medals.

Moore and his partner were in plainclothes and in an unmarked police car when they approached Demetrius Blackwell in a quiet Queens neighborhood after they saw him adjusting his waistband, a move that made them suspicious he had a handgun, authorities said.

The officers pulled up next to Blackwell, 35, and exchanged words before the man suddenly turned, pulled out a weapon and fired at least twice at them, striking Moore in the head and face, according to court documents.

Blackwell has been charged with attempted murder and other crimes. He is being held without bail and has not entered a plea. His attorney has denied the charges.

He will be charged with first-degree murder, prosecutors said.

Investigators discovered the five-shot silver Taurus used in the shooting under a box near a backyard grill along the route Blackwell fled following the shooting, Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said.

The gun, which had two live rounds still in the chamber, was one of 23 weapons reported stolen in October 2011 from a bait and tackle shop in Perry, Georgia, he said. Ten of those weapons have since been recovered—nine of them in New York.

Conservative Nebraska looks at abolishing death penalty

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—There's not a lot of sympathy for the 11 men on death row in Nebraska, but spurred by frustration about the growing difficulty and cost of carrying out executions, lawmakers are considering eliminating the death penalty.

If the Legislature outlaws capital punishment, Nebraska would become the first conservative state in more than 40 years to abolish the death penalty. Capital punishment opponents are optimistic following an initial vote this spring to repeal the law but acknowledge they still face a challenge as opponents led by the governor scramble to block the change. Another vote on the issue could come this week.

An unusual coalition of Democrats and Republicans has formed behind the repeal effort.

While Democrats cite racial disparities of who is sentenced to death and the possibility of executing an innocent person, Republicans point to the legal hurdles that have prevented the state from executing anyone. Nebraska's last execution was in 1997.

“You always want to feel as a legislator that you're sticking up for the victims,” said Republican Sen. Colby Coash, who said the death penalty wastes tax money and makes a false promise to victims' families. “I don't speak for the victims, but how is it justice if a state imposes a sentence that it's never going to carry out?”

The last conservative state to abolish the death penalty was North Dakota in 1973. In the past six years, four more liberal

states have ended capital punishment: New Mexico in 2009, Illinois in 2011, Connecticut in 2012 and Maryland in 2013. Thirty-two states still have death penalty laws.

Some legal experts believe a repeal by Nebraska could prompt other states to consider the move, especially those that rarely execute people.

“If New Hampshire wanted to abolish the death penalty, Nebraska could set a terrific precedent,” said Frank Zimring, a law professor and death penalty expert at the University of California, Berkeley. “But it probably wouldn't work in Texas or Missouri.”

Nebraska's debate shows the topic no longer is a “third rail” issue among conservatives, Zimring said.

Asia

Nepal: We will need huge foreign support for reconstruction

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's government will need immense international support as the Himalayan nation begins turning its attention toward reconstruction in the coming weeks, in the wake of the devastating April earthquake, a top official said Monday.

Nepal is one of the world's poorest nations, and its economy, largely based on tourism, has been crippled by the earthquake, which left more than 7,300 people dead. While there are no clear estimates yet of how much it will cost to rebuild, it will certainly be enormously expensive.

"In two to three weeks a serious reconstruction package needs to be developed, where we'll need enormous help from the international community," said Information Minister Minendra Rijal. "There's a huge, huge funding gap."

He also said foreign rescue workers were welcome in Nepal, saying they could remain as long as they are needed. He had earlier said that the need for their services was diminishing, but later denied that he wanted them to leave the country.

Soon, he added, the nation will be shifting away from a rescue mode and "will be concentrating more on relief operations."

Since the April 25 earth-



AP
A U.S. Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster III lands in Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday, May 3, 2015.

Some of the structures around the stupa, built in the 5th century, were damaged in the quake. Police blocked off the steep steps to the top of the shrine, also called the "Monkey Temple" because of the many monkeys who live on its slopes.

"I am praying for peace for the thousands of people who were killed," said Santa Lama, a 60-year-old woman. "I hope there will be peace and calm in the country once again and the worst is over."

Kathmandu's main airport remained closed since Sunday to large aircraft delivering aid due to runaway damage, but U.N. officials said the overall logistics situation was improving.

The airport was built to handle only medium-size jetliners, but not the large military and cargo planes that have been flying in aid supplies, food, medicines, and rescue and humanitarian workers, said Birendra Shrestha, the manager of Tribhuvan International Airport.

quake, 4,050 rescue workers from 34 different nations have flown to Nepal to help in rescue operations, provide emergency medical care and distribute food and other necessities. The still-rising death toll from the quake, Nepal's worst in more than 80 years,

has reached 7,365, police said.

The head of the World Food Program ended her visit to Nepal and the WFP so far has dispatched food for 250,000 people in some of the hardest-hit areas, the spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general, Stephane Dujarric, told reporters Monday. The

agency warned that basic aid is still needed, especially for people living without shelter.

Meanwhile, Buddhists turned out to visit shrines and monasteries to mark the birthday of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.

At the base of the Swayamb-

hunath shrine, located atop a hill overlooking Kathmandu, hundreds of people chanted prayers as they walked around the hill where the white iconic stupa with its gazing eyes is located.

ASIAN BRIEFS

In China, Taiwan party leader calls for more global access

BEIJING (AP)—The head of Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party called for more chances for the island to participate in international organizations after a meeting Monday with Chinese President Xi Jinping, whose government views the territory as a renegade province. Eric Chu also affirmed his party's support for a consensus reached between Chinese and Taiwanese negotiators in 1992 that is interpreted by Beijing as a commitment to eventual unification. That stance is held as sacrosanct by China but has become increasingly unpopular among young Taiwanese who see their island as an independent country. Illustrating the matter's delicacy, the party issued a statement saying that the "'92 consensus" was the basis for dialogue, but that its exact meaning was open to interpretation.

Strong quake rocks Papua New Guinea, local tsunami possible

SYDNEY (AP)—A powerful earthquake rattled the South Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea on Tuesday, and officials warned that a local tsunami was possible. The 7.4-magnitude quake struck about 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of the town of Kokopo in northeastern Papua New Guinea, at a depth of 63 kilometers (40 miles), the U.S. Geological

Survey reported, downgrading its original estimate that the quake was magnitude 7.5 and 10 kilometers (6 miles) deep. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said tsunami waves of up to 1 meter (3 feet) were possible within 300 kilometers (186 miles) of the epicenter. There were no immediate reports of waves being seen and no reports of damage, said Chris McKee, assistant director Geophysical Observatory in the capital, Port Moresby.

Thailand's 87-year-old king makes rare appearance

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's 87-year-old monarch has made a rare public appearance to mark the 65th anniversary celebrating his coronation. Thais lined the roads of Bangkok's historic district on Tuesday chanting, "Long Live the King!" as the revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej was driven from the hospital, where he has taken up residence, to the Grand Palace. The king has been hospitalized since last October when he had his gallbladder removed. It was the latest ailment for the king, who has faded from public life over the past several years and on rare appearances is seated in a wheelchair. Thais hold great affection for Bhumibol (poo-MEE-pohn), who took the throne in 1946. His official coronation came in 1950. Worries about the king's health and succession have contributed to Thailand's political instability over the past decade.

SIDE BAR

Centenarian survives Nepal quake, worries he's testing fate

BIDUR, Nepal (AP)—It was an unlikely escape. By his own account, he should have died. But when the humble hut of stacked grey stones collapsed onto Funchu Tamang, who believes himself to be 101 years old, his daughter-in-law quickly pulled him from the wreckage.

He was hit in the chest by a rock during the quake. A couple of ribs were broken, giving him trouble breathing. The next day, just when his son arrived from Nepal's northwest, Tamang was weak and delirious. "I thought my father was dead," 58-year-old Bal Bahadur Tamang said Monday. But the old man had

only fallen unconscious.

They revived him, but a few days later it became clear he needed more medical help. His wheezing was getting worse. He was tired and often dizzy.

They called the Nuwakot district hospital for help, which sent a police helicopter to land near his village and bring him here on Saturday.

On Monday, doctors monitored Tamang's vital signs at the makeshift clinic set up in the parking lot of the district's medical office in the partially ruined town of Bidur.

Funchu Tamang's ordeal is yet another of the extraordinary stories of resilience and sur-

vival coming out of Nepal after it was rocked by a 7.8-magnitude quake on April 25. It killed thousands and left hundreds of thousands more homeless.

When he arrived, doctors treated Tamang for a partially collapsed lung. They bandaged cuts he received in the chaos after the quake. Two days later, he was alert and sitting upright, chatting. His blood pressure was a cool 101/62. His injuries were mostly healed, to the point where doctors said he could go home Tuesday.

Funchu Tamang is so old, he has lived through two such devastating quakes. But he barely remembers the 1934 temblor

that hit with a magnitude of 8 and leveled cities.

The more recent scare, however, is fresh in his mind. "This one was really bad. I was afraid. I felt as if I would die," he said from his parking lot hospital bed.

He's still confused by the ordeal, and wonders if he may be testing fate a bit too far. "I'm very lucky to be alive. ... But I am so old. I don't think I can survive anymore. I can't see properly. I can't work, can't move properly," he said, wearing a T-shirt depicting the king and queen of Bhutan, a hand-out from visiting Bhutanese medics.

Taliban kill 17 Afghans even as they 'welcome' peace push

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban militants who have been waging war on the Afghan government for more than a decade on Monday expressed a willingness to soften their position on a range of issues, an apparent shift that could eventually lead to peace talks.

But despite those positive signs following two days of informal talks in Qatar, a wave of Taliban attacks targeting police checkpoints late Sunday night in the remote Afghan province of Badakhshan, killed at least 16 policemen. The insurgents

said in a statement to media that the assaults were part of their annual spring offensive, which began late last month.

And on Monday morning, a Taliban suicide bomber struck a bus carrying government workers in the capital, Kabul, killing one person and wounding 13. The Taliban also claimed responsibility for that bombing.

The attacks underscored just how elusive peace is after decades of war in this Central Asian country.

During the informal discussions between Afghan govern-

ment representatives and those of the Taliban in Qatar, both sides emphasized that peace talks were not on the agenda.

The Taliban have so far ignored calls from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani for the group to join the government. However, their statement following Qatar meetings indicated flexibility on previously intractable issues such as the presence of the foreigners in Afghanistan and acceptance of a constitution.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan once again as a policy clearly states that it does not

want to harm others and also won't allow anyone to use Afghan soil against others," it said, using the group's formal name.

The statement said that "for the happiness of the nation" the group wants "cooperation in all sectors with all countries, including neighbors, and welcomes the efforts of anyone in bringing peace to Afghanistan."

The Taliban launched their annual warm-weather offensive on April 24 with an attack on the northern city of Kunduz, which took the government and military by surprise.

World

Italian ships rescue nearly 6,800 migrants; baby born at sea

ROME (AP)—Italian rescue ships brought migrants by the thousands to the country's southern ports, including a baby born aboard a navy vessel, as crowded shelters in Sicily and on the mainland struggled Monday to find room for them.

Some politicians based in northern Italy, meanwhile, vowed that their regions wouldn't take in any of the Mediterranean Sea migrants.

In a three-day period ending Sunday, 6,771 survivors were rescued in the seas north of Libya from overcrowded rubber dinghies and unseaworthy fishing boats sent out by smuggling rings, the Coast Guard reported Monday. Ten bodies were found Sunday on boats or in the sea.

Calm seas and mild temperatures fueled the spike in human trafficking—just like it did last month when nearly 6,000 migrants were rescued during a few days of good weather. Italy has not yet released the total number of migrant arrivals in April, but the relentless stream of migrants this year is on track to surpass the 170,000 rescued at sea by Italy in 2014.

The navy said a woman, in labor when rescued Sunday, gave birth to a girl aboard one of its patrol ships. Mother and daughter were fine and the patrol boat, carrying 654 migrants who were saved in four different rescue operations, headed to port.

Other rescuers had grim tasks. An Italian tugboat, among several commercial vessels saving



AP
This photo provided by the Italian Navy's Press Office Monday, May 4, 2015 shows a baby born on a navy vessel Sunday, May 3, 2015.

asylum-seekers are supposed to stay in Italy.

In Reggio Calabria, where 780 migrants disembarked in the "toe" of the Italian peninsula, priority was being given to keeping migrant families together, many of them in a gym, and 14 migrant babies were being given medical checkups at local hospitals. Around 540 other Reggio Calabria migrants were being taken to the Tuscany or Emilia Romagna regions in the north.

Interior Minister Angelino Alfano visited the Italian island of Sicily on Monday, conferring with local authorities wrestling with how to shelter the growing number of migrants.

The Milan-based governor of Lombardy, meanwhile, vowed not to take in any more migrants.

"In a few days I will be in Rome. And I'll repeat to the interior minister that Lombardy has already done its part," Gov. Roberto Maroni was quoted by the Italian news agency ANSA as saying. "If there is any funding available, it should be spent on our citizens and not for clandestine" migrants.

An estimated 800 migrants drowned last month when their boat capsized off Libya with hundreds of them locked in the hold by smugglers. After that,

migrants on Sunday, also recovered two corpses, the Navy said.

The surge of arrivals set Italian port mayors and charity organizations scrambling to find beds for the migrants. Many

migrants will seek asylum because of war or persecution and hope to reach relatives in northern Europe. But until their applications are processed, which could take months or longer,

Airstrikes hit Yemen airports as Saudis ponder cease-fire

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Heavy Saudi-led airstrikes targeted several airports Monday across Yemen even as the kingdom's foreign minister said officials were considering a cease-fire to allow aid into the Arab world's poorest country, while Senegal announced it would be contributing troops to back the Saudi-led coalition.

In the southern city of Aden, more than 150 airstrikes hit the city's airport, witnesses and security officials said. Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and their

allies are locked in fierce fighting there against forces loyal to exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Monday's airstrikes also hit airports in the city of Hodeida and the capital, Sanaa, witnesses and officials said. They said other airstrikes targeted Yemen's eastern province of Marib and the Houthi stronghold of Saada, while clashes in Aden left buildings ablaze and the Saudi-led coalition airdropped weapons to tribes allied with Hadi's government in Marib.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to talk to journalists. Witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity over fear of reprisals.

Senegalese Foreign Affairs Minister Mankeur Ndiaye said his country is sending 2,100 soldiers to help back the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, becoming the first sub-Saharan African country to contribute soldiers to the effort.

Senegal, which is made up of mostly Sunni Muslims like Saudi Arabia, has received significant financial investments from

the kingdom in recent years. Senegalese President Macky Sall met last month with the Saudi king, who solicited troop contributions at that time.

Iranian-allied Houthi rebels, along with security personnel loyal to ousted President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have been targeted by Saudi-led airstrikes since late March. On Monday, newly appointed Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said coalition countries were considering a cease-fire to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid.

the European Union held an emergency summit and agreed to contribute more boats and patrol aircraft to Mediterranean rescue efforts.

Charities in Italy have pitched in to give the migrants food, beds and a safe place to socialize.

"We have to realize that emigration is a phenomenon

Italy can't face alone," said the Rev. Antonio Pangallo, who runs the Caritas charity in Reggio Calabria. "My hope is that they (politicians) don't get interested in the problem only when we witness again—I hope not—another genocide in Mediterranean waters. Italy needs help."

Protests highlight troubles of Ethiopian Jews in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—When Israel secretly airlifted waves of Ethiopian Jews in the 1980s and 1990s, saving them from war and famine in the Horn of Africa, it was celebrated as a triumphant show of unity for the Jewish people.

Thirty years after the first large groups of Ethiopians arrived, few in the community are celebrating. Israel's black Jewish minority is plagued by poverty, crime and unemployment, and their brewing frustrations over racism and lack of opportunity have boiled over into an unprecedented outburst of violent anti-police protests.

The unrest has laid bare the struggles of absorption and the rocky attempts of the state to integrate them into a society for which they were ill-prepared. Caught off-guard, Israel's leaders are vowing to respond to the community's grievances.

President Reuven Rivlin said Monday the outcry "exposed an open, bleeding wound in the heart of Israeli society."

"We must look directly at this open wound. We have erred. We did not look, and we did not listen enough," said Rivlin, whose largely ceremonial office is meant to serve as a moral compass.

On Sunday, protesters shut down a major highway in Tel Aviv, hurled stones and bottles at police and overturned a squad car. They were dispersed with tear gas, water cannons and stun grenades. More than 60 people were injured and 40 arrested in the second such protest in recent days, and demonstrations are expected to continue.

The unrest followed video that emerged last week of an Ethiopian Israeli soldier being beaten by police in what appeared to be an unprovoked attack.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Monday with community leaders and with the soldier who was attacked, telling him "we'll have a change a few things." Closing the gaps in Israeli society, however, will be a difficult task.

Ethiopian Jews trace their ancestors to the ancient Israel-

ite tribe of Dan. The community was cut off from the rest of the Jewish world for more than 1,000 years.

Under its "Law of Return," Israel grants automatic citizenship to any Jews. In the early 1980s, after a period of debate about recognizing the community as Jews, Israel covertly began to bring in thousands of Ethiopian immigrants. In 1991, thousands more came in a secret airlift carried out over two days.

The new arrivals struggled greatly as they made the transition from a rural, developing African country into an increasingly high-tech Israel. Over time, many have integrated more into Israeli society, serving in the military and police and making inroads in politics, sports and entertainment. Some prominent community figures speak Hebrew without a trace of an accent and are indistinguishable from other Israelis in everything but skin color.

Overall, however, the Ethiopians are an underclass. Many complain of racism, lack of opportunity and routine police harassment.

About 120,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel today, a small minority in a country of 8 million. Many older Ethiopians work menial jobs—men as security guards and women as cleaners and cashiers. They live with their families in rundown city neighborhoods and impoverished towns with high rates of crime and domestic violence.

Their children have made gains, but overall, the younger generation is still struggling.

A 2012 study by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute said that 41 percent of Ethiopian Israelis lived below the poverty line, compared with 15 percent for the overall Jewish population. The average income of Ethiopian Israelis was about two-thirds of their Jewish counterparts. Just 5 percent had college degrees, compared with 28 percent for the broader Jewish population. According to Israel's Prison Service, one-fifth of the inmates in juvenile facilities are Ethiopian Israelis.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli foreign minister steps down to join opposition

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's foreign minister dealt a blow to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's effort to build a coalition by announcing Monday he is stepping down and that his secular, nationalist party is joining the opposition. Avigdor Lieberman said he could not sit in the government after Netanyahu struck a series of deals

with ultra-Orthodox partners. Netanyahu has been trying to cobble together a majority coalition in the 120-seat parliament by a Wednesday deadline. Lieberman has served two terms as foreign minister and has been a key Netanyahu ally throughout the years. "Our dilemma was between principles or seats, I am happy that we decided to keep our principles and give up our seats," Lieberman told his Yisrael Beiteinu party. "I

have decided to resign from my post as foreign minister."

Jean-Marie Le Pen suspended from French far-right party

PARIS (AP)—French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was suspended Monday from the National Front party he built into a political force over four decades after a series of controversial remarks about Jews and Nazis put him on the fast track to disgrace.

The party's executive bureau met Monday and decided to suspend Le Pen's membership in the party he co-founded, pending a party-wide vote on abolishing the position of honorary president for life. In a statement, the party said a majority of its leadership supports doing away with that title, held by 86-year-old Le Pen since 2010. The move will be put to a vote of all party members within three months, the statement said.

Focus

By LEE KEATH and MAGGIE MICHAEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO (AP)—When al-Qaida overran the Yemeni port city of Mukalla last month, the group's commanders immediately struck a deal to share power with the area's tribesmen. No jihadi banners were raised. Al-Qaida even issued a statement denying rumors that it had banned music at parties or men wearing shorts.

A local tribal council now administers the city.

The approach was a stark contrast to al-Qaida's rival, the Islamic State group, notorious for its savagery. And that was precisely the point.

In a competition with the Islamic State group for recruits and prestige across the Middle East, al-Qaida has sought to distinguish itself from its rival's bloodthirstiness, taking an approach that in jihadi circles would be considered pragmatic. It is building alliances with local players, even old enemies, to seize new territory. Its leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, has told his followers to avoid IS-style brutalities against civilians in order to build support among local populations.

The strategy has paid off, winning new gains for al-Qaida. In Yemen, it even stands to emerge as the real winner as Saudi Arabia leads an Arab air campaign targeting the terror network's rival, the Iranian-backed Shiite rebels known as Houthis who have taken over much of the country.

Al-Qaida "is the future Trojan horse," warned a senior Yemeni military intelligence officer, Ali Sharif. When the war is over and leaves a security vacuum, he said, "the role of al-Qaida will come. ... They will fill it and take control."

While the United States and the West might hope that the competition between al-Qaida and the Islamic State group would weaken two major militant threats, each is instead maneuvering to benefit from the region's turmoil.

The Islamic State group's gains over the past year have been sizeable. For nearly two decades, al-Qaida was unchallenged as the world's most prominent terrorist organization. But IS has stormed forward to rival it—and even surpass it in places.

Beyond its heartland in Syria and Iraq, the Islamic State group has planted flags across the map. It eclipsed al-Qaida in Libya, where IS's strongest external branch controls several cities and most of al-Qaida's one-time allies have switched to swear fealty to it. Militants in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Nigeria's fearsome Boko Haram—all once linked to al-Qaida—have also pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Perhaps more importantly, the Islamic State group has a dynamism and fervor that has seemed to fade for al-Qaida. The IS declaration of a "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria inspired a stream of thousands of foreign fighters to join it and earned it pledges of allegiance by individual militants around the region. The group's notorious brutalities—everything from beheadings to enslavement of women from religious minorities—are seen by its supporters as proof of its purity and refusal to compromise



In this file photo posted on the Twitter page of Syria's al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front on Saturday, April 25, 2015, which is consistent with AP reporting, Nusra Front fighters stand on their vehicles and wave their group's flags as they tour the streets of Jisr al-Shughour, Idlib province, Syria.

In the face of IS successes, al-Qaida adapts, grows stronger



In this file photo posted on the Twitter page of Syria's al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front on Saturday, March 28, 2015, which is consistent with AP reporting, a fighter from Syria's al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front holds his group flag as he stands in front of the governor building in Idlib province, north Syria.

on what it considers "God's law."

That has helped the Islamic State group aggressively make inroads in areas long the domains of its rivals.

In Afghanistan, where the Taliban, a top al-Qaida ally, has long dominated, young militants frustrated with the lack of progress in a nearly 14-year insurgency see a winner in IS. In February, former Taliban commanders in southern Zabul province "exchanged their white Taliban flag for the black flag" of IS and were behind the abduction of 31 Shiites, according to Afghanistan's senior Shiite leader, Mohammad Mohaqiq.

"This is a very fertile breeding ground" for the Islamic State group, said Nader Nadery, director of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation

Unit think tank.

Around the Middle East, prominent jihadi clerics to whom militants look for guidance have been split, lining up with one side or the other. The bitterness spills out on social media, where the two sides hurl insults at each other.

Al-Qaida backers gloated when Iraqi troops and Shiite militiamen retook the Iraqi city of Tikrit from the Islamic State group last month. "After all the blood spilled over the delusion of the caliphate, have you finally realized that declaring a nation and emirates only hurts Muslims and jihad?" asked one, with the Twitter handle Jabal al-Aiza.

Islamic State group supporters in turn accused al-Qaida of siding with enemies of Islam against the caliph-

ate. A pro-IS figure on Twitter, Abu Khatab al-Yemeni, denounced al-Qaida's branch in Yemen for allying with anti-Islamist militias that "once were considered apostates."

By building such partnerships, al-Qaida is essentially betting that IS will burn itself out and be weakened by bearing the brunt of the Arab and Western military backlash against its caliphate, while the terror network gains ground through its alliances.

Al-Qaida's approach hardly makes it more moderate, though. In a 2013 document called "General Guidance for Jihadi Action," al-Qaida leader al-Zawahri underscored that the group's priority is to strike "the head of the infidels, the United States and Israel, and their local (Arab) allies."

At the same time, the document urges al-Qaida militants to avoid bloody killings of civilians in order to build support among local populations. They are not to kill Shiite civilians—even though the group considers them infidels—or the families of opponents. They are not to harm Christians or bomb mosques or other places where civilians gather.

In Syria, al-Qaida's Nusra Front is the most powerful fighting force outside the territories held by the Islamic State group. Last month, it worked with other rebel factions, including ones backed by Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar, to capture the northwestern city of Idlib and territory in the south—the biggest victories in several years over President Bashar Assad.

In Yemen, al-Qaida has been boosted by the fight against the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who overran the capital,

Sanaa, and much of the north and are fighting to take the south after driving the internationally recognized president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, out of the country.

Al-Qaida "has emerged as the only real fighting force countering the Houthis," said Adaki Oren, an analyst with the Long War Journal, which monitors militant groups. "They have championed themselves as the vanguard of Sunni tribes."

The militants overran Mukalla, the capital of Yemen's largest province, Hadramawt, in early April. That brought it a flood of weapons and cash. But the group quickly stepped into the background. An umbrella group known as the Sons of Hadramawt is policing the city, made up of tribal fighters, local youth and al-Qaida militants. A local council is running government institutions in the city and even won the support of Hadramawt's pro-Hadi governor, who also has fled abroad, a spokesman for the council, Lutfi bin Saadon, told the AP.

When rumors circulated that al-Qaida was imposing strict Shariah rules in the city, including banning music at parties and forbidding use of "qat," a stimulant leaf chewed by Yemenis, the group issued a statement denying the reports and saying they were spread by those opposed to the tribes cooperating with al-Qaida.

The group says it is avoiding taking over territory to rule itself because that would distract it from fighting the Houthis and from its ultimate goal of targeting the United States—and perhaps draw U.S. drone strikes that have taken out a string of its prominent figures.

Still, its influence among local fighters worries some Yemenis. Across the south, it has allied with local militias, giving backbone to anti-Houthi fighters.

"Sleepers cells of al-Qaida are now awakening, thanks to Houthis," said a southern activist, Adnan Agam. "The south will become a new Afghanistan. ... It won't be one or two cities under al-Qaida control, but all of the south."

Good Housekeeping

Summer brings to mind many things: sunshine, warm temperatures, vacation—and bugs.

Many insects lay dormant for the winter and make their grand reappearance when the weather warms up. We talked to several highly rated pest-control experts to find out which pests customers most often call about, and best ways to treat them.

1 ANTS

“The highest number of residential calls we get is due to ants,” says Rick Steinau, owner of Ace Exterminating in Cincinnati.

To treat the colonizing crawlers, Steinau says the homeowner must first identify the species. “Just because you see ants doesn’t mean that all ants get treated the same way,” he says. “Different ants are attracted to different types of food.”

If you need help identifying the species, try asking your county’s extension agent. Then, Steinau says, look for ant bait. Most retail stores carry it, but be sure to read the label to make sure it’s the right kind for the species in your home.

He says treatments purchased from a retail store cost \$20 to \$30, but some professional-level products are available online for about \$10 more. For spray treatments, he charges \$110 to \$120.

Terry Singleton, owner of Termite Terry Pest Control in Costa Mesa, Calif., says he also offers spray treatments. These generally cost about \$180 for a one-time treatment, or \$85 every two months if you sign up for a treatment plan.

2 BED BUGS

“All socioeconomic groups can get bed bugs,” Steinau says. “You can pick them up in the movie theaters, at a restaurant, on a plane or a bus or sitting at the doctor’s office. It’s a very common problem now.”

How to rid your home of five pests likely to invade it

By **KALEY BELAKOVICH**
Angie’s List

Consider a pest control service plan for regular maintenance.
THINKSTOCK

Ray Johnson, owner of Johnson Pest Control in Sevierville, Tenn. says his company treats bed bugs on a daily basis. “We see terrible situations,” he says. “It’s really sad. A lot of people are trying to self-treat, and when they go out and buy a can of something, the problem gets worse and they spread.”

Experts say the best way to completely eliminate bed bugs is to hire a professional to either fumigate with chemicals or perform a heat treatment.

Johnson also advises homeowners to protect their mattresses. “Use mattress encasements,” he says. “A lot of people find out they have bed bugs and throw out the mattress and bring in a new mattress, but they’ll still get them from the springs.” Placing a protective cover over your new mattress prevents bed bugs from infesting it and feeding on you at night.

Steinau says spot treating

bed bugs usually requires three treatments to deal with all life cycles of the pests. The first treatment can cost \$100 to \$150 per room, with two follow-up treatments costing \$60 to \$90 each per room.

Heat treatments usually cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000, he says.

3 COCKROACHES

“We’re seeing a lot of roaches in this area,” says Bell Dash, customer service director of Bug Out Service in Jacksonville, Fla. To treat cockroaches, she says, her company conducts an inspection to target any areas with sanitation issues and then uses bait to kill them.

Howard Richardson-El, pro-

duction manager of City Wide Exterminating Service in Philadelphia, says German cockroaches prove to be the hardest pest to get rid of because they live inside the home, whereas other cockroaches migrate into the home.

Johnson says he applies pesticide with a fogging machine and crack and crevice treatments. Since some cockroaches won’t be killed immediately if not exposed to the pesticide, it can take months to completely rid a home of the pests, and can cost hundreds of dollars.

4 TERMITES

Singleton says most of his calls involve

termite troubles, which require a professional’s touch to treat. “Many of the houses require fumigation,” he says. “We also do a variety of localized treatments.”

Fumigations cost about \$1,200 or more, he says, and localized treatments start at about \$550 and go up, depending on the extent of the problem.

5 MILLIPEDES

Dash says recent calls from Florida customers also involve millipedes, which require treatment from the outside.

“Pull mulch away from the house,” she says. “Get rid of

any moisture or drainage issues. They like to nest where it’s moist. They get underneath the mulch.”

It’s best to get rid of the millipedes’ environment before treating with chemicals, she says, because it’s hard to apply pesticides underneath mulch.

As for the millipedes already in your home, she offers a piece of advice. “If you have millipedes, a vacuum is your best friend.”

Kaley Belakovich is a reporter at www.angieslist.com, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Summer energy savings

By **SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA**
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: How can I improve the efficiency of my air conditioner? I change the filter every month, but I haven’t noticed much difference in my power bills.—Craig K., Fresno, California

A: Changing the air filter regularly is a great first line of attack in keeping power bills low, along with other benefits like reducing allergens inside your home. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, it doesn’t take much dirt buildup on the A/C coil—about 0.42 inch—to reduce its efficiency by as much as 21 percent. That can translate to a cost increase of more than \$200 more per year (from \$518 per year for an average home, to \$725 per year, according to a Permatron release).

But regular maintenance also is important, even for newer units -- and that includes outdoor and indoor components of your air conditioning system, such as the outdoor air compressor.

Schedule an annual checkup of the A/C system before summer weather really cranks up. This will run around \$100. Make sure it’s performed by a certified heating and air-conditioning professional, who should check the indoor and outdoor coils as well as the compressor and capacitors. The unit’s airflow and its cooling capacity also should be checked, along with refrigerant levels. The electrical components need to be checked as well.

Once your air conditioning unit is in tip-top shape, start managing your home’s temperature more efficiently. If



you haven’t installed a digital programmable thermostat, now is the time. Not only does it maintain a home’s temperature more precisely, it also can be set to a higher or lower temperature based on when you’re at home.

To keep cooler air inside during the summer months, check or update weather stripping around windows and doors, which will help stop air from es-

caping as rapidly. Your home’s insulation also plays an important role in improving energy bills, so have it checked and updated or replaced if needed.

HOME TIP: Use ceiling fans in conjunction with air conditioning to better circulate air throughout the house.

Send your home tips and questions to ask@thisisahammer.com.

COMFORT FOOD

Skillet ‘Baked’ Beans

By **HEALTHY EXCHANGES**
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

These quick and easy baked beans are a great addition to any barbecue.

- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped celery
- 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can Healthy Request Tomato Soup
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons prepared yellow mustard
- 1/4 cup Splenda Granular
- 1/4 cup Oscar Mayer or Hormel Real Bacon Bits
- 2 (15-ounce) cans Bush’s

navy beans, rinsed and drained

1. In a large skillet sprayed with butter-flavored cooking spray, saute onion, green pepper and celery for 6 to 8 minutes. Stir in tomato soup, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, Splenda and bacon bits. Add navy beans. Mix well to combine.

2. Lower heat and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serves 6 (2/3 cup).

* Each serving equals: 198 calories, 2g fat, 11g protein, 34g carb., 787mg sodium, 6g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch/Carb., 1 1/2 Meat, 1/2 Vegetable.

Life & Style

A name for Britain's new princess: Charlotte Elizabeth Diana

LONDON (AP)—It's a name that immediately evokes British royal history: Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana.

Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, on Monday announced the name they picked for Britain's newborn princess, a choice seen as a tribute to both Prince William's parents and grandmother, the queen, as well as a link to Kate's family.

The princess, the second child of William and Kate, will be known as Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, royal officials said.

The birth of Princess Charlotte marks a new chapter for William and Kate, widely seen as the monarchy's most modern, popular couple. But the names they chose are firmly rooted in royal family history. Charlotte, the feminine form of Charles, appears to be a nod to the newborn's grandfather, Prince Charles. The baby's middle names honor Queen Elizabeth II, the infant's 89-year-old great-grandmother, and the late Princess Diana, William's mother and the baby's grandmother.

Charlotte also features in Kate's family, as the middle name of her sister, Pippa Middleton.

The newborn princess is fourth in line to the throne after Charles, William and her older brother, 21-month-old Prince



AP
In this Saturday, May 2, 2015, file photo, Kate Duchess of Cambridge and Prince William smile as they carry their newborn baby princess from The Lindo Wing of St. Mary's Hospital, in London.

George.

William and Kate introduced the baby princess to the world Saturday evening, just 12 hours after Kate checked into St. Mary's Hospital in London to give birth.

The baby weighed in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces (3.7 kilograms).

Her name was warmly welcomed Monday by royal fans. Some were particularly pleased about the tribute to Diana, still

remembered fondly by many. Diana, who died in 1997 at age 36, gave birth to William and Harry at the same London hospital where Charlotte was born.

"I so much wanted the name Diana to be in there some-

where," said Munever Halil, 52. "I wanted it to be Elizabeth Diana, so I think it's lovely."

Charles Spencer, Diana's brother, also approved of the choice.

"Perfect names. My 2-year-old Charlotte Diana will be thrilled at cousinly name-sharing," he tweeted.

Earlier Monday, Westminster Abbey's bells pealed and gun salutes were fired across London in honor of the newborn princess. In a display of traditional pageantry, dozens of deafening volleys were fired from Hyde Park and the Tower of London to mark the occasion.

The royal couple had kept the world guessing about the baby's name until after both sets of grandparents got a chance to visit Kensington Palace on Sunday to meet their granddaughter.

Bookmakers face a large

payout—Charlotte had been a front-runner, alongside other guesses.

"Charlotte was the hot tip over the weekend," said Ladbrokes spokeswoman Jessica Bridge, who estimated that the industry may lose 1 million pounds (\$1.51 million) over the name. "We may have lost a fortune, but we're paying out with a smile and wish the duke and duchess all the best."

Another bookmaker, William Hill, said they were relieved because their top bet had been Alice. Spokesman Rupert Adams said 5,096 bettors correctly guessed the name and his firm would pay out just over 100,000 pounds (\$151,100).

Britain's royal history includes several Charlottes, a name originating from French, but most lived at least 200 years ago. Queen Charlotte, the wife of George III, was a keen botanist and founded London's Kew Gardens. Born in 1744, the queen had 15 children—including one Princess Charlotte, who grew up to marry a German duke.

George IV also named his only child Charlotte in 1796, but she died in childbirth at the age of 21 in 1817, leading to a mass outpouring of grief in Britain.

But royal historian Hugo Vickers said he believed William and Kate probably didn't choose the first name based on distant history.

New McCullough book celebrates the Wright Brothers

NEW YORK (AP)—David McCullough's latest work of history followed a spontaneous path, from a book about many Americans in Paris in the 20th century to the biography of just two.

"Among the people I turned up were the Wright brothers, and it just astonished me that they were even in France, let alone that it had an important part to play in their story," says the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, a Boston resident visiting New York to promote "The Wright Brothers," coming out this week.

"Just reading about them, I realized how much more interesting they were, how much more compelling than I had any idea. And I thought, 'No, this is the book.'"

The 81-year-old McCullough was interviewed recently in a private study at the Yale Club in Manhattan, a favorite setting for the Yale alumnus. He sees "The Wright Brothers," already optioned by Tom Hanks for a planned miniseries, as the last of an unofficial "trilogy of accomplishment," following his landmark "The Great Bridge" about the Brooklyn Bridge and "The Path Between the Seas" about the Panama Canal. Paris is part of the Wrights' story because they at first received more support from the French than from the Americans. McCullough also traces their child-

hood in Ohio, their devoted parents and Wilbur's relentless self-education, the bicycle shop where they first revealed their mechanical genius and the 1903 flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, that later allowed them to claim honors as the first successful pilots (McCullough dismisses recent claims by Connecticut officials that a resident of their state, Gustave Whitehead, was the real pioneer).

One of the world's most popular and honored historians, McCullough has written about presidents, Paris, bridges and natural disasters. But he sees common themes and approaches in his work. His first book, "The Great Flood," was about the 1889 Johnstown Flood in Pennsylvania and was successful enough that he feared he would be labeled "Bad News" McCullough. So starting with "The Great Bridge," published in 1972, he picked narratives defined by what is achieved and not lost.

He also insists on starting with a subject he knows little about.

"And that's something my academic friends find hard to understand," he says. "Because they're experts on a given era or a given group of people or an idea. I don't want to be an



McCullough

expert. Experts have all the answers; I have questions."

McCullough is not a trained scholar and has a hobbyist's background in aviation. As a child he built model airplanes and flew them, and watched them quickly descend, from the third floor of his house. He also took flying lessons in the 1960s, as many as he could afford to at the time.

At first, he knew little more about the Wrights than did his editor at Simon & Schuster, Bob Bender, who confides in a reader's note in "The Wright Brothers" that he couldn't tell which brother was which (Short answer: Orville wore a mustache, Wilbur didn't). McCullough educated himself through reading and travel, visiting Kitty Hawk, Paris and other sites of their early experiments and looking through thousands of pages of letters and diaries.

"Five years ago, I knew only the same basic things most people did, that they were bicycle mechanics from Ohio and that they invented the airplane," he says.

His research enabled him to beat the experts and crack a longtime mystery about the Wrights, involving a hockey stick that changed young Wilbur's life.

Singer Chris Brown accused of battery in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Singer Chris Brown faces another battery accusation just days after he performed at an after-party to the weekend's much hyped boxing match, which was also billed as the kickoff to his residency at the Drai's nightclub.

Las Vegas police said Brown, 25, is suspected of beating a man who was found at the Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center at 3:42 a.m. Monday.

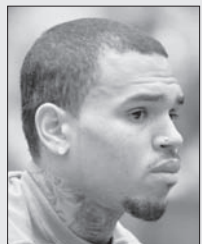
The man said he was playing basketball at the Palms Casino Resort when he got into a verbal argument on the court with the singer. He claimed Brown

punched him and, as he was preparing to defend himself, another person with the singer also hit him.

The man took himself to the hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries and released.

Las Vegas police said they went to the hotel after they were called to the hospital but didn't locate Brown.

Authorities say they have given Brown the option to sign



Brown

off on a misdemeanor battery citation or have the case turned over to the Clark County District Attorney's office. As of 2 p.m., police said Brown has not responded.

Officer Larry Hadfield said signing off on the citation is not an admission of guilt but an acknowledgement of the accusation. Similar to accepting a traffic ticket, the accused would be given a court date in Clark County Justice Court scheduled for months from now.

UC Berkeley's Mark Twain project finds cache of new writing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Scholars at the University of California, Berkeley have pieced together a collection of dispatches written by Mark Twain when the author was a young newsman in San Francisco.

In the letters, the man who would write The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and its sequel, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, likened the city's police chief to a dog chasing its tail and accused city government of racialism. Some of the letters carried his flair for embellishment and may not be entirely true.

"This is a very special period in his life, when he's out

here in San Francisco," said Bob Hirst, general editor of the Mark Twain Project on the Berkeley campus.

"He's utterly free, he's not encumbered by a marriage or much of anything else, and he can speak his mind and does speak his mind. These things are wonderful to read, the ones that survived."

Twain was likely 29 years old when he started filing near-daily columns for the Territorial Enterprise newspaper in Virginia City, Nevada, in 1865. He wrote a 2,000-word story, or "letter," six days a week for a salary of \$100 a month, Hirst

said.

Many of the letters were in back issues lost to fires, but Twain scholars picked through archives of other Western U.S. newspapers for copies. They have found about 110 columns written in 1865 and 1866.

In one letter, Twain gives detailed dialogue between two gold speculators trapped in a shaft, clinging to rope tied to an old horse named Cotton.

"Johnny, I've not lived as I ought to have lived. D—n that infernal horse!" Twain reported one man saying to the other. "Johnny, if we are saved I mean to be a good man and a Christian."

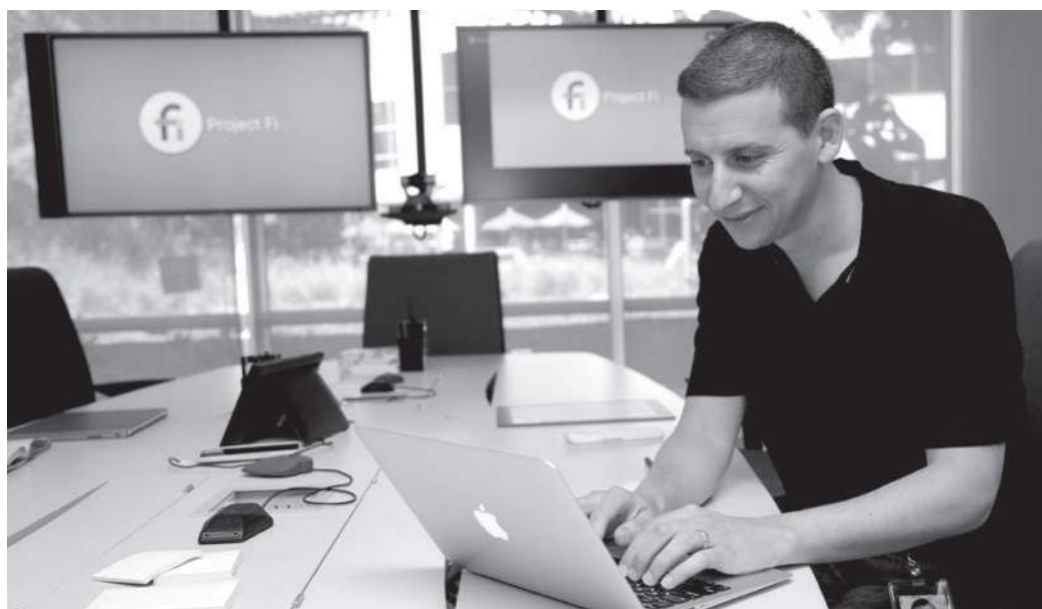
Google is starting small, thinking big with 'Project Fi'

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google wants the wireless services that connect mobile devices to digital content to be cheaper and more reliable.

The reason has as much to do with the pursuit of profit as with trying to make smartphones more useful. More time spent using Google's dominant search engine or watching videos on its popular YouTube site translates into more opportunities for the company to show its money-making ads.

Enter "Project Fi," the Internet company's recently launched attempt to usher in new ways to keep smartphones online while lowering the cost for streaming video, listening to music, getting directions and searching for information.

"Wireless connectivity has become so essential that it's kind of like our lifeblood," says



In this April 24, 2015 photo, Nick Fox, Vice President for Communications Products at Google, prepares a presentation on Project Fi, in Mountain View, Calif.

Nick Fox, the Google Inc. executive overseeing Project Fi. "This gives us a playground

where we can try things out."

In a break from the status quo, Project Fi will cost just

\$20 for basic service and then only charge for the amount of data consumed over cellular

networks that Google is leasing from T-Mobile and Sprint. Most plans charge a flat rate under metered plans that limit customers to a specific amount of data.

Google's service is also promising to automatically switch customers to publicly available

Wi-Fi networks to avoid incurring charges for using data on the cellular networks.

Here are some key things to know about Project Fi culled from a recent interview with Fox at Google's Mountain View, California, headquarters.

Lawyer says Joni Mitchell may be released from hospital soon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Folk singer Joni Mitchell may be released from the hospital soon but still cannot confer with doctors about her medical care or long-term treatment, an attorney told a judge on Monday.

The assessment by attorney Alan Watenmaker compelled a judge to place the singer-songwriter's longtime friend in charge of health care decisions for Mitchell.

Superior Court Judge David S. Cunningham III appointed Leslie Morris, Mitchell's friend for more than 40 years, as the singer's conservator during a brief hearing Monday. Morris will now be able to confer with doctors and make decisions

about Mitchell's treatment and lifestyle when she leaves a Los Angeles hospital.

An attorney appointed to represent Mitchell's interests agreed that Morris should receive emergency conservatorship authority.

"I believe that it is very necessary," Mitchell's court-appointed attorney Rebecca Thyne told Cunningham.

Mitchell, 71, has been hospitalized since March 31 for undisclosed reasons. No further information about Mitchell's health or prognosis was discussed during Monday's hearing, and Watenmaker declined comment after the proceedings.

The eight-time Grammy winner has no relatives who can

serve as her conservator, which led to Morris filing a petition last week stating that her friend was unconscious and unable to make decisions about her care. A message posted on Mitchell's official website, however, stated that the singer was alert and is expected to make a full recovery.

The conflicting information was not addressed at Monday's court hearing.

Morris will not have any control over Mitchell's finances.

In addition to winning multiple Grammy Awards, Mitchell was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997.

She started her career in her native Canada before moving to Southern California, where

she became part of the flourishing folk scene in the late 1960s. Her second album, "Clouds," was a breakthrough with such songs as "Both Sides Now" and "Chelsea Morning," winning Mitchell the Grammy for best folk performance.

Her 1970 album, "Ladies of the Canyon," featured the hit single "Big Yellow Taxi" and the era-defining "Woodstock." The following year, she released "Blue," which ranks 30th on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time."

Her musical style integrates folk and jazz elements, and she counts jazz giants Charles Mingus and Pat Metheny among her collaborators.



Mitchell

Obama jokes about a future playing dominoes with Letterman

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama is envisioning a future of playing dominoes with retiree David Letterman.

Obama joked about their quieter futures during his eighth "Late Show" appearance Monday, saying Americans have grown up with the veteran comedian.

"After a tough day at the office or coming home from work, knowing that you've been there

to give us a little bit of joy and a little bit of laughter, it has meant so much," Obama said. "You're part of all of us. You've given us a great gift and we love you."

Letterman is filling his CBS show with prominent guests in the lead-up to his final show on May 20. He has hosted "Late Show" for 33 years.

In honor of Obama's appearance, Letterman listed "Top

10 Questions Dumb Guys Ask the President," which included "Will you be a guest on one of my last shows?" and "Will you show us your birth certificate?" Number 1, in honor of the recent unauthorized landing on the Capitol lawn: "When will you return my gyrocopter?"

Letterman returned Obama's praise by complimenting his "very funny" performance at the White House Correspondents Dinner last month. "I'm a pretty funny guy," Obama responded.

"You have guys writing that stuff?" Letterman asked, to which Obama threw up his hands and gave a sidelong look at the audience like he couldn't believe Letterman would ask. "No," Obama deadpanned. "I came up with it all myself."

The two men also discussed the serious topic of the Baltimore riots, with the president discussing how too many minority communities don't have a trusting relationship with police.

Letterman asked if racism is

a factor. Obama said it was a residual one after a history of slavery, segregation laws and discrimination, while adding society has made great strides. "I'm a testament to that," he said to applause from the studio audience.

Letterman said Obama told him during a commercial break that he plans to take a month off after leaving office. The president said he and the first lady hope to get involved in causes they care about "in a different capacity," including climate change, as well as helping support disadvantaged youth and military families.

But most of all Obama indicated that, like Letterman, he is looking forward to life out of the spotlight. "It does feel good not to have to be on the stump," Obama said of the 2016 campaign.

"I was thinking you and me could play some dominoes together," Obama said. "We could go to the local Starbucks and swap stories."

Bruce Jenner in the spotlight for 2 'Kardashians' specials

NEW YORK (AP)—If you didn't hear enough about Bruce Jenner's gender transition during his recent interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer, the E! network wants to fix that.

The network said it will air a two-part "Keeping up With the Kardashians" on Sunday, May 17, and Monday, May 18. The programs promise to

capture intimate conversations and emotional moments that

Jenner shares with his family as they discuss his transition into life as a woman. Featured are Jenner's ex-wife Kris Jenner, as well as Kourtney, Kim and Khloe Kardashian, and Kendall and Kylie Jenner.

The programs air at 9 p.m. Eastern each night.



Jenner

Melodramatic serial should be canceled, not renewed

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of 10 years, "Scott," and I separated last year. I was pregnant and hormonal at the time, and told him we would never get back together. We went a month without contact, then reconnected.

While Scott was in the process of working things out with me, he had a girlfriend. He made it seem like not a big deal, but apparently it was more serious. He told her she was the love of his life and he didn't want to lose her, etc. When our daughter was born five months later, he told me he was done with the other woman. They talked for a month after our baby arrived and then he cut her off.

I recently found some old messages between them, and my heart shattered all over again. Scott says it was all a joke and he never meant any of it. The text messages imply otherwise.

I don't know if I should take another break to clear my head, or wait until my headache passes. Please help.

EMOTIONAL IN THE SOUTH

DEAR EMOTIONAL: If you were convinced that Scott has been completely honest, I doubt you would have searched his message history. As to his relationship with the other woman being a "joke," I doubt she was laughing when—after hearing she was the love of his life and he didn't want to lose her—he

announced it was over.

You appear to like drama. You brought this on when you told Scott the two of you would "never" reconcile. I do think you should take a break until you are less emotional, because the choices you have made so far haven't been entirely rational.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I live on soft drinks. I don't eat real food. I can't remember the last time I ate a hot meal, much less vegetables. I exist solely on massive amounts of soda—two two-liter bottles a day. If I put food in my stomach, it's usually bread or candy.

I don't binge and purge. Because I'm never hungry, I don't look at it as starving myself. The last time I tried to get off the soda I got sick to my stomach, light-headed and felt out of sorts. I don't know if I'm addicted to the caffeine, the sugar or both. I want to be able to go to a restaurant on a date and eat like a normal person.

I don't know what to do or how to do it. This liquid diet is slowly killing me and I need help. I have expressed my concerns to my doctors and even my therapist. I don't think they believe me or understand the extent of my problem. What would you suggest?

STUCK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR STUCK: It appears you have an eating disorder. Because your doctor and your therapist both seem unable to

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



understand that and help you, consider replacing them. You should also consult a licensed nutritionist who is a registered dietitian (R.D.).

Caffeine and sugar withdrawal can both cause the symptoms you describe. Neither withdrawal is "fun," and both can cause headaches and more. You may have to wean yourself rather than quit cold turkey, and a nutritionist can help you to create a personalized eating program that's right for you.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

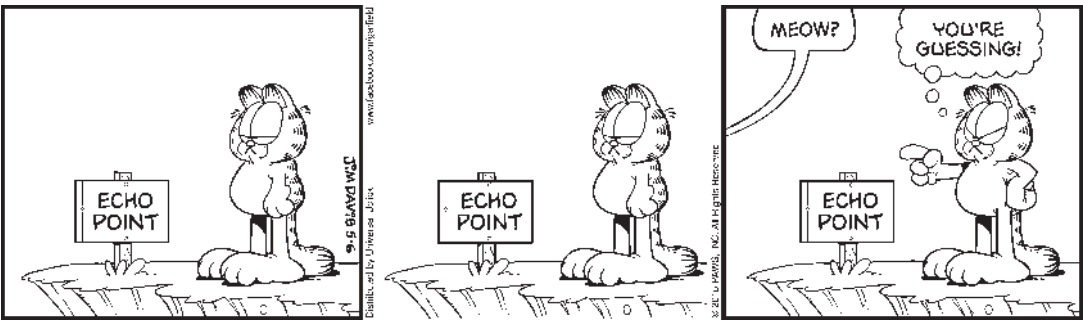
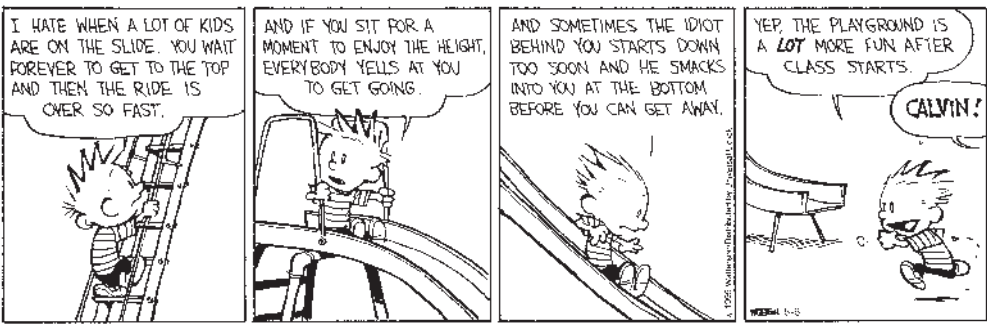
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

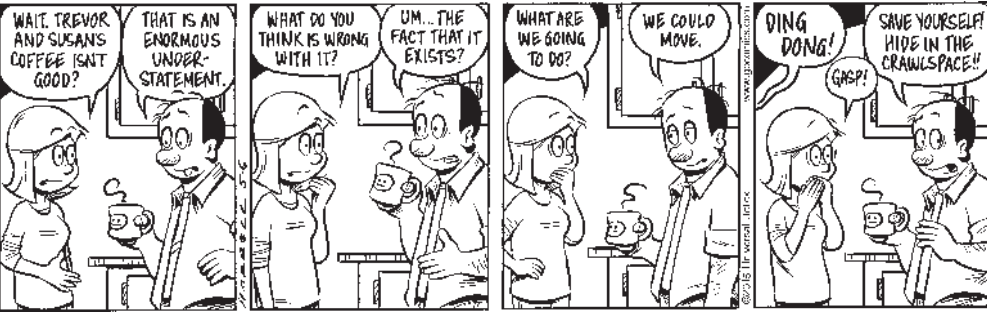


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bill of Garden intruder

8 Cougar

12 Exist

13 Bullets and such

14 Unyielding

15 Meadow

16 Country quaintness

18 Yuletide rendition

20 A billion years

21 Conks on the noggin

24 Halos

28 Poison level

32 Witty one

33 Mess up

34 Gold measure

36 Cowboy's sweetie

37 Bound

39 Great joy

41 Trustworthy

43 Shed tears

44 Shelter

46 In a stunned state

50 Means of betrayal

55 "Got a Secret"

56 Needle case

57 Sharpen

58 Fresh

59 Flex

60 On the (unfriendly)

61 See 43-Across

DOWN

1 Body powder

2 Vicinity

3 Tolerate

4 Spelling whiz?

5 Ostrich's kin

6 Ambulance abbr.

7 Love not wisely but too well

8 Park

9 Swiss canton

10 Witticism

11 Whatever amount

17 Charged bit

19 Kimono closer

22 Chan-teuse

23 Scatter about

25 Creche trio

26 Unruly kid

27 Without doing anything

28 Reveal

29 Sandwich treat

30 Picture of health?

31 Eli's campus

35 1960s T-shirt patterns

38 Wan

40 Book-keeper (Abbr.)

42 Main-lander's memento

45 Vocal comeback

47 Galvanizing matter

48 Eternally

49 Moist, in the morning

50 Society newbie

51 Multi-purpose truck

52 Bit of wordplay

53 Debtor's letters

54 Stick with a kick

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gabourey Sidibe, 32; George Clooney, 54; Tom Bergeron, 60; Willie Mays, 84.

Happy Birthday: Stay alert and take care of your responsibilities regardless of what's going on around you this year. Your ability to adapt to whatever changes you face will be what helps you come out on top. Use what you have and avoid waste. Sticking to a budget will lead to less worry and greater efficiency. Your numbers are 9, 15, 23, 27, 34, 37, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Finish what you start. Once you have cleared your to-do list, you will be ready to reach new goals. An unexpected opportunity will surface. Embrace change and discuss personal plans with someone you love. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take pride in the way you handle money and emotional matters. Build a solid base that will allow you to gain security and a higher standard of living. Only you can make your dreams come true. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Added responsibilities will try your patience. Understanding and compassion will be required when dealing with others. Don't let your emotional deception creep into an important decision you need to make. Love is in the stars, but honesty must be honored. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Examine your skills, what you have to offer and how you can be more diverse in the way you present yourself. Update your resume or consider the best ways to turn what you enjoy doing most into a lucrative endeavor. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get serious and make a move. Procrastination will not lead to results. A change of pace, environment and people will motivate you to show off your best qualities and aim to reach a higher standard of living. Romance is on the rise. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid disputes that can affect your position or your personal life. If you criticize others, prepare to face complaints. It's in your best interest to view life and situations from a positive, not a negative, point of view. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do what needs to be done without complaint. Get involved in helping others or volunteering for a cause you care about. Your input will be well-received and lead to a new opportunity. Take care of family responsibilities and you'll be rewarded. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Size up your situation and consider your options. If you aren't happy with what's going on in your personal or professional life, make a move. It's up to you to be responsible for your happiness and success. Don't rely on others. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let personal matters get you down. Face any dilemma that comes your way honestly and without hesitation. Avoiding sensitive issues will result in turmoil you can do without. Face your problems head-on. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make your home more comfortable, but stay within your means. Don't be tempted by fancy luxuries you don't need. A convenient and cozy place will lead to contentment and less stress. Do the work yourself if it will save money. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will feel good about yourself if you do things for others. Love and romance are on the rise, and personal discussions can bring you closer to the people you care about most. A professional opportunity is apparent. Update and send out your resume. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep a close watch over what's transpiring around you, but don't bring attention to what you are doing. Staying in the background will help you further your own interests. Don't let an emotional issue throw you off track. **

Birthday Baby: You are an instigator. You are enthusiastic, caring and sympathetic.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/06

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	8	9	1	6	5	4	3
5	6	1	4	3	2	7	9	8
9	4	3	8	7	5	1	2	6
3	5	4	1	8	7	2	6	9
1	8	9	6	2	4	3	5	7
6	2	7	3	5	9	4	8	1
4	3	6	2	9	1	8	7	5
8	9	5	7	4	3	6	1	2
7	1	2	5	6	8	9	3	4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOCKEY GOALIES Solution: 9 letters

E C A T C H L F O R W A R D S
D S N G O A L S I S L I D E T
I T G S I Z E S A V E S S L A
L O L R B S T E M L E H H L N
G P E H C T A W A L L H O U C
N A M E S N E F E D E K O P E
I D E L D A R C R D C U T L D
N D E H G P A A K C I T S L E
O L T F U L U R P K T S O L K
I E U T L G O K E L C H F A E
H H O S H E G V C N A O T F S
S C T T P S C I E U R Y L G O
U A U R S E U T N E P O E B R
C O H F A O E P L G W L C R Y
M C S D A P P D T R A I N E D

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Aerial, Angle, Block, Calls, Catch, Coach, Corner, Cradle, Cushioning, Defenseman, Deflect, Dekes, Fall, Five Hole, Flow, Forwards, Glide, Glove, Goals, Helmet, Hold, Hugging, Legs, Mouth Guard, Offside, Paddle, Pads, Pants, Player, Poke, Post, Practice, Puck, Pulled, Saves, Shoot, Shutout, Size, Slide, Speed, Stance, Stick, Stop, T-push, Trained, Trap, Wall, Watch

Yesterday's Answer: Bands

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Griffin's triple-double lifts Clippers over Rockets



HOUSTON (AP)—Blake Griffin had 26 points, 14 rebounds and 13 assists for his second straight triple-double to lift the Chris Paul-less Los Angeles Clippers to a 117-101 victory over the Houston Rockets on Monday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

Houston scored five straight points to cut the lead to one with about 7 1/2 minutes left. Matt Barnes got the Clippers going after that, making two 3-pointers in a 12-0 run that made it 101-88 3 minutes later, and the Clippers coasted to the victory.

Paul, who has a strained left hamstring, missed his first game of the season. But Jamal Crawford had 21 points and Barnes added 20 to help pick up the slack.

Dwight Howard led Houston with 22 points and James Harden added 20.

Houston was well-rested after having six days off after beating Dallas in five games. The Clippers showed no signs of fatigue despite having only about 48 hours to get ready for this series after eliminating defending champion San Antonio in Game 7 on Saturday night.

Griffin, who also had a triple-double on Saturday, has three this postseason.

Harden scored five straight points after the Clippers took their big lead, but Houston couldn't do much after that and fans started heading for the exits with about 2 minutes left.

The Clippers scored 37 points in the third quarter to lead by six at the start of the fourth. They were up by eight early in the fourth when Houston used a 6-2 spurt, with two dunks and a block by Howard, to cut the lead to 87-83.

Paul, who has averaged 22.7 points and 7.9 assists in the playoffs, was injured Saturday night but returned to hit the game-winning shot. Coach Doc Rivers said the All-Star point guard could have played if it were an elimination game, but that it wasn't worth the risk for Game 1.

Rivers expects him to be able to play in this series, but isn't sure if he'll be ready for Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Paul, the team's undisputed leader, clad in an olive green blazer, stood up often during the game, barking pointers to his teammates. He walked with a noticeable limp and during timeouts he would call different players over, sharing information with them as if he were an extra coach.

Five quick points by Harden put Houston up by six with about 10 minutes left in the third quarter. But Los Angeles scored the next six points to tie it at 57-all.

A basket by J.J. Redick gave the Clippers their first lead since early in the game, 66-65. Jason



AP
Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin (32) celebrates with teammate Jamal Crawford (11) during the second half of Game 1 in a second-round NBA basketball play-off series against the Houston Rockets, Monday, May 4, 2015, in Houston.

Terry put Houston back on top with a 3-pointer, but the Clippers scored the next seven points to take a 73-68 lead with 3 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter.

The Clippers were up by six with 2 minutes left in the period when Houston scored five quick points, capped by a dunk from Corey Brewer, to get within 78-77.

Los Angeles scored the last five points of the quarter, powered by a 3-pointer by Crawford, to lead 83-77 entering the fourth.

Bulls 99, Cavaliers 92

In Cleveland, the Chicago Bulls came in oozing with confidence, unafraid of LeBron James and convinced they could keep their playoff momentum rolling.

Derrick Rose made sure they did.

Looking like the league MVP he was before being slowed by knee injuries, Rose scored 25 points, Pau Gasol added 21 and the Bulls led from the start in a 99-92 victory over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night.

Rose, who sustained a shoulder stinger in the closing minute, helped the Bulls swipe home-court advantage from the Cavs. Cleveland was missing starters Kevin Love and J.R. Smith, but its bigger issue was not stopping Rose or his pick-and-roll plays with Gasol.

After all he's been through—surgeries, hours of rehab, uncertainty about his future—Rose, who has missed over 180 games the past four seasons, is savoring every moment back in the postseason.

"I just appreciate everything," he said, "getting back on the floor, my fans, every as-

pect of basketball. It's allowed me to change my life and my family's life. I owe so much to this sport. I'm just trying to roll with it."

Jimmy Butler added 20 points and banked in a contested jumper with 30 seconds left as the Bulls closed it out, silencing a roaring Cleveland crowd already worried about Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Kyrie Irving scored 30 points and James added 19 and 15 re-

bounds for Cleveland, playing its first game since Love—one of the Cavs' Big 3—was lost for the remainder of the postseason with a shoulder injury.

"No excuses," Cavs coach David Blatt said.

James didn't offer any.

"We all just have to play better," said James, who had nine assists but six turnovers. "I wasn't that good tonight."

The Cavs only trailed by four points in the final minutes, but

they forced several 3-point attempts and James had two costly turnovers and missed a tough layup in the final 3 minutes.

Finally fully healed after dealing with injuries all season, the Bulls are peaking at the perfect time. Coming off a 54-point win over Milwaukee to wrap up its opening-round series, Chicago jumped to an early lead, withstood a Cleveland comeback and buckled down on defense in the clos-

Warriors' Curry voted NBA's MVP over Harden, James

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—His voice cracked first. Then, his eyes got red. Finally, Stephen Curry cried.

He had felt this way in the past—when he barely received any scholarship offers out of high school, when some questioned whether his game could translate from tiny Davidson College to the NBA, when he sat in a doctor's office searching for answers on how to fix his troublesome right ankle.

Curry could let it all out and laugh now. This was a time for celebration.

The Golden State Warriors point guard won the NBA's Most Valuable Player award Monday, the biggest moment yet of a young career already full of overcoming obstacles.

Curry received the Maurice Podoloff Trophy in a packed hotel ballroom below Golden State's downtown Oakland practice facility. He shook his head in disbelief as he was announced as the winner of the league's top individual honor.

"There were obviously good times and bad times. Times I wanted to shut it down. Times where you realize that all the hard work you put into it was worth it," Curry said. "It just

made me realize how blessed and thankful I really am to be in this position."

Curry received 100 of 130 first-place votes for a total of 1,198 points from a panel of 129 writers and broadcasters, along with the fan vote on the NBA's website. Houston's James Harden had 25 first-place votes and 936 points. Cleveland's LeBron James, a four-time MVP, got five first-place votes and 552 points.

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook (352 points) finished fourth and New Orleans Pelicans big man Anthony Davis (203 points) was fifth.

Curry's family informed him of the news at his house after Golden State's win over Memphis in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals Sunday. Curry, pulled into a room by his basketball-playing brother, Seth, opened the door to see everyone wearing personalized MVP T-shirts, holding cameras and sporting "the cheesiest smiles you could ever imagine."

"It was a great moment that I'll remember for the rest of my life," Curry said.

Afterward, he sat in a chair for about 10 minutes and re-

flected on his journey.

Curry kept his cool in private Sunday. He had trouble staying composed at times in public Monday.

Curry was joined on stage by Warriors coach Steve Kerr, general manager Bob Myers and his teammates—praising each of them individually. He got choked up talking about his pregnant wife, Ayesha, and their 2-year-old daughter, Riley, who sat in the front row with the rest of his family.

And he shed a few tears talking about his father, Dell, pounding the dais while he gathered his thoughts.

"A lot of people thought I had it easy with pops playing in the NBA," he said, shaking his head.

Curry thanked just about every team employee, too, including former general manager Larry Riley and retired coach Don Nelson for "taking a chance on a scrawny, little kid from a mid-major school."

Across the country, James called Curry the "catalyst" for Golden State's rise from perennial loser to championship contender.

"I think it's great that another kid born in Akron, Ohio,

can win an MVP, so I liked it," James said at the Cavaliers' shootaround.

Curry, now 27, was born in Akron but grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he started in the shadows of his father.

Despite his famous name, most major colleges didn't offer Curry a scholarship because they thought he was too small. Curry proved them all wrong, going from a shooting guard who dazzled at Davidson during the NCAA Tournament to a polished pro point guard who can shoot, dribble and distribute with the best of them.

Curry carried the top-seeded Warriors to a franchise-record 67 wins, surpassed his own NBA record for most 3-pointers in a season and added to his growing reputation as one of the most entertaining spectacles in sports. He's the franchise's first MVP since Wilt Chamberlain in 1960, when the Warriors played in Philadelphia.

But there were times it seemed Curry's potential might not be reached. Two operations on his right ankle in his first three seasons with Golden State fueled questions about his durability.

Brewers win in Counsell's debut, 4-3 over Dodgers



MILWAUKEE
(A P) — The
Brewers rallied

for three runs in the eighth inning to win Craig Counsell's managerial debut, a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday.

Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw was denied his 100th career win, and took a no-decision.

The Brewers overcame a 3-0 deficit with one run in the sixth and three in the eighth in Counsell's first game since taking over for Ron Roenicke, who was fired Sunday.

Hector Gomez and pinch-hitter Gerardo Parra opened the sixth with consecutive triples to cut the lead to 3-1.

Gomez pulled the Brewers within a run at 3-2 in the eighth with his first career home run. Adam Lind chased Kershaw with a pinch-hit double, and Carlos Gomez greeted reliever Chris Hatcher (0-3) with a tying RBI double. Gomez advanced to third on Jason Rogers' groundout and then scored on infield single by Ryan Braun.

Rangers 2, Astros 1

In Houston, Robinson Chirinos hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth inning as Texas ended Houston's 10-game winning streak.

Chirinos' sacrifice fly to center scored Adrian Beltre, who led off the inning with a double off Chad Qualls (0-2), moved to third on Kyle Blanks' single and slid in as Jake Marisnick's throw to the plate went to the backstop.



AP
Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell, center left, celebrates with Francisco Rodriguez after a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers Monday, May 4, 2015, in Milwaukee.

Keone Kela (2-1) pitched the eighth for the win, and Neftali Feliz pitched the ninth for his third save.

Houston scored in the first as Jose Altuve and George Springer drew walks, worked a double steal and Altuve scored on Evan Gattis' sacrifice fly to make it 1-0.

Jake Smolinski tied it in the eighth with a one-out RBI single to center.

Mariners 3, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Nelson Cruz hit his MLB-leading 14th home run and Felix Hernandez won his fifth straight decision to

start the season, leading Seattle over Los Angeles.

Cruz celebrated his first American League Player of the Month Award with a leadoff shot against Matt Shoemaker (2-2) that ended a scoreless tie in the seventh.

Hernandez (5-0) allowed a run in seven innings while striking out eight and lowering his ERA to 1.73. The 2010 AL Cy Young Award winner became the first Seattle starter since 2001 to win his first five decisions.

Fernando Rodney closed for his eighth save.

Logan Morrison and Seth Smith also homered off Shoemaker, who was 3-0 in his four previous starts against the Mariners. The right-hander struck out 10 in 7 1-3 innings.

Matt Joyce and David Freese homered for the Angels.

Giants 2, Padres 0

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner carried a no-hit bid into the seventh inning on the way to winning back-to-back starts for the first time this season, pitching San Francisco past San Diego for its fourth straight victory.

Bumgarner (3-1) outdu-

eled Tyson Ross (1-3), striking out six and walking one as each starter threw 107 pitches. Bumgarner left in the eighth and gave way to Sergio Romo.

The reigning World Series Most Valuable Player didn't allow a hit until Justin Upton's leadoff single in the seventh.

Blue Jays 3, Yankees 1

In Toronto, pinch-hitter Russell Martin singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and Toronto ended the Yankees' six-game road winning streak.

Held scoreless for seven innings by Yankees right-hander Chase Whitley, the Blue Jays scored three in the eighth against relievers Chris Martin (0-1) and Dellin Betances. Josh Donaldson and Jose Bautista chased Martin with one-out singles before Edwin Encarnacion greeted Betances with a double that landed just inside the foul line in shallow left.

One out later, Martin grounded an RBI single to third. A diving Headley made the stop, but first baseman Garrett Jones couldn't scoop Headley's low throw and the ball rolled away, allowing Encarnacion to score.

Phillies 5, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Jeff Francoeur had four hits and drove in two runs, Aaron Harang allowed one run over six innings and Philadelphia beat Atlanta.

Francoeur had a run-scoring double off Alex Wood (1-2) in Philadelphia's three-run first inning. Francoeur, who began his career with Atlanta, drove in another run with a triple off Jim Johnson in the ninth. He also had two singles.

Carlos Ruiz had two hits, including a two-run single, and Darrin Ruf had three hits. The Phillies set a season high with 14 hits.

Nationals 6, Marlins 4

In Washington, Yonel Escobar

had a career-high five hits, the last a tiebreaking, two-run single in the eighth inning, as Washington rallied to beat Miami.

Washington trailed 4-2 before sending eight batters to the plate in the eighth against Bryan Morris (3-1). A leadoff walk and a home run by Ian Desmond tied it, and with two outs the Nationals used three straight hits to take the lead for the first time.

Pinch-hitter Tyler Moore singled, Denard Span doubled and Escobar hit a liner to right.

Rays 5, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Jake Odorizzi pitched seven strong innings, Joey Butler hit his first career homer and Tampa Bay's offense perked up a bit.

David DeJesus drove in two runs for the Rays, who scored just four runs in a three-game set this past weekend against Baltimore.

Boston left fielder Hanley Ramirez was injured in the first inning and left the game with a sprained left shoulder after he ran into a padded side wall attempting to make a catch.

Cardinals 10, Cubs 9

In St. Louis, Tony Cruz hit a tiebreaking, two-run double to cap a four-run seventh inning, and St. Louis rallied to beat Chicago for its seventh straight win.

Mark Reynolds started the comeback for the NL Central leaders, who trailed 5-0 in the first, with his fourth career grand slam in the bottom of the inning. The Cardinals improved to 19-6 for the franchise's best start since 1900.

Miguel Socolovich (2-0) worked a scoreless seventh and Seth Maness gave up a homer to rookie Addison Russell with two outs in the ninth before earning his second save.

Twins 8, Athletics 7

In Minneapolis, Torii Hunter hit a three-run homer to break a sixth-inning tie, Phil Hughes earned his first win and Minnesota beat Oakland for its fifth consecutive victory.

Brian Dozier and Jordan Schafer each drove in two runs for the Twins.

Hughes (1-4) gave up a grand slam to Stephen Vogt five batters into the game and a solo shot to Mark Canha in the sixth inning, but the right-hander was good enough in between to finally get that first victory in his sixth start of the season.

Vogt added an RBI double in the ninth, but Glen Perkins recovered to earn his ninth save.

Pacquiao could face disciplinary action for shoulder

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Manny Pacquiao could face disciplinary action from Nevada boxing officials for failing to disclose a shoulder injury before his fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Nevada Athletic Commission chairman Francisco Aguilar said Monday that the state attorney general's office will look at why Pacquiao checked "no" a day before the fight on a commission questionnaire asking if he had a shoulder injury.

"We will gather all the facts and follow the circumstances," Aguilar said. "At some point we will have some discussion. As a licensee of the commission you want to make sure fighters are giving you up-to-date information."

Pacquiao could face a possible fine or suspension for not answering the question accurately on a form he filled out just before Friday's weigh-in. He would go on to lose a unanimous decision to Mayweather in the richest fight ever.

Meanwhile, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Neal ElAttrache told ESPN.com that Pacquiao will undergo surgery later this week to repair a "significant tear" in

his rotator cuff. ElAttrache examined Pacquiao on Monday at his Kerlan Jobe Orthopedics office in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao's promoter put out a statement on behalf of the fighter late Monday afternoon saying that the injury was disclosed to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which approved the use of an anti-inflammatory shot for the fight. But USADA was only a third party to the fight, charged only with testing the fighters for banned substances in training and the night of the bout.

"We had no medical information, no MRIs, no documents," said Travis Tygart, who heads the USADA. "It was not an anti-doping issue. The real question is why his camp checked 'no' on the disclosure. Either they made a terrible mistake to not follow the rules or they were trying not to give information to the other side. I'm not sure there's a middle ground."

Tygart said his agency, which was hired by promoters to oversee drug testing for the bout, was contacted April 7 asking about the use of vari-

ous substances and whether they were allowed under anti-doping rules. He said there was another call 10 days later asking about using a different substance, again for what the USADA was told was an unspecified shoulder problem.

A little more than two hours before the fight, Pacquiao's corner asked Nevada regulators if he could be given a shot of Toradol, an anti-inflammatory. Aguilar denied it, saying the commission had no previous indication there was an injury and could not allow a shot in fairness to the Mayweather camp.

"Our job is to protect the health and safety of fighters and the integrity of the sport," Aguilar said. "We expect our fighters to be forthright."

Pacquiao said after the fight that his shoulder had improved and he was hopeful of fighting with the shot. He said it didn't bother him until the fourth round, when he hit Mayweather with a big left hand and went after him with a series of punches.

Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie

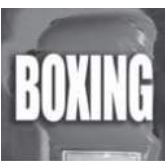
Roach, said the shoulder was getting better by the day in training camp.

"We thought at one time we'd postpone the fight, but as the weeks went on it was getting better and I was happy with his performance," Roach said. "I thought the progress was good enough."

Nevada Athletic Commission executive director Bob Bennett said Pacquiao filled out the form himself and understood the questions. A copy of the form was posted earlier on the True.Ink website, signed by both Pacquiao and his manager, Michael Koncz.

"It's not just the fact he didn't fill out the question completely, it was that he wasn't honest and they didn't tell us a month ago when he had the shoulder injury," Bennett said. "They're not obligated to, but two hours before the fight they wanted a shot that's a pain killer in essence. That put us in a very precarious position."

In the statement released by Pacquiao's camp, they said Pacquiao decided to proceed with the fight even without the shot.



Easy wins for Armatech, Ol'Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech and the Ol'Aces nearly reached the century mark to ease past their respective opponents in the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the Masters division, Armatech crushed Auto Motion, 95-68, while in the U20 division pairing, the Ol'Aces also notched a double-digit winning margin against Armatech, 96-83.

The Ol'Aces-Armatech tiff was the last game in the round-robin U20 division and they ended up in a triple tie for second



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's James Abuy drives against Auto Motion's Marlon Sison, left, and Joseph Galulu, partly hidden, during the second quarter of their Masters game in the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

place with Blue Haus after earning similar 2-2 records. The Sonics placed first with a perfect 4-0 mark, while Gilas finished last with its 0-4 slate.

In the Masters division, Armatech improved to a 2-1 record for third place in the team standings behind the unbeaten Blue Haus (0-3) and LBT Ap-

praisal (3-1). Auto Motion dropped to fourth with its 2-2 card, followed by the Old'Aces (0-2) and Graphics/Star 6 BBQ (0-4).

Armatech got off to a jackrabbit start, more than doubling Auto Motion's output in the first quarter, 33-14, to set up the lopsided win. James Abuy and Martin Moreno delivered the early

knockout blows for Armatech, as they combined for 24 points in the first 10 minutes of play. Abuy drilled two triples midway in that opening period and wrapped up the quarter with 14 markers, while Moreno chipped in 10.

Bernard Montano then took over in the second canto, scoring 10 straight points in the closing minutes of the first half to lift Armatech to a commanding 55-33 advantage. Armatech never looked back, as Auto Motion failed to match the hot shooting of the former's guards.

Moreno paced Armatech with his 26 points, while Abuy added 24, and Montano contributed 16. Big man Bruce Berline was the fourth Armatech player to score in twin digits with his 10 markers. Mico Usi led Auto

Motion with his 21 points.

In the U20 game, the Ol'Aces also built an early double-figure lead against Armatech to bag their second victory.

Jon Santos dropped 14 of his 18 points in the first period to power the Ol'Aces to a 26-16 advantage. Jason Lampkin, Mike Muna, and Andrew Palino picked up the Ol'Aces scoring in the last three quarters to keep the team's safe distance against the depleted Armatech, which had only five players for the nightcap.

First Game

Armatech 95 – Moreno 26, Abuy 24, Montano 16, Berline 10, Poquiz 7, Tobias 4, Malasarte 3, Tolentino 3, Gabaldon 2.

Auto Motion 68 – Usi 21, Yalung 11, Joson 11, Sison 10, Balgos 6, Galulu 4, Montes 3, Villanueva 2.

Scoring by quarters: 33-14, 55-33, 69-51, 95-68.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 96 – Lampkin 19, Jo. Santos 18, Muna 12, Je. Santos 13, Palino 10, Moises 8, Yu 8, Nakashima 8.

Armatech 83 – Cruz 29, Borromeo 21, Espinosa 16, De Luna 15, Cudia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-16,

Three weeks left in Thursday B leagues

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Teams aiming to clinch the Thursday Fanihi and Flame Tree B division crowns must make their move as they only have four weeks left before the Bud Light Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring season ends.

The Jokers Latte Sparts is the current leader in the Fanihi B with a league-best 109-41 record after a 13-2 crushing of the VFW Warriors (44-106) last week. The Sands Bar Dragon Warriors are in second (95-55) following a 10-5 win over the Jokers Preba Darts (69-81).

An 8-7 decision by the Sand Juvy 80 Proffers (92-58) against the Oleai Team Fearless (55-95) failed to strengthen

their title bid. The Route 33 Mixblood Shooters (89-61) defeated the Sand Juvy Sunrisers (47-103), 11-4.

Naked Fish Oneshot and Jonny's Kyodai, in the Flame Tree division, are locked in a tight race for the title as both hold 90-60 cards. The Oneshot edged sister team Naked Fish Na'Gupu (79-71), 9-6, while Kyodai escaped with an 8-7 win over the Sand Juvy No Fear (63-87). The rest of last week results are as follows:

Flame Tree

- Ridin' Darrty 8, Serial Killaz 7
- No Fear 10, Real Deal 5

Masters

- Destroyers 11, Scratch 'N' Sniff 6
- Pythons 9, Darting Chelus 8

TDI Summit 9, Shoot Balut 8

A Division

- Predators 11, Huntlaw 6
- Warriors 10, Sakude 7
- No Fear 10, Snipers 7
- Voyagers 10, 101 Proffers 7
- Ridin' Darrty 9, Mafia 8

Ladies

- Vicious Dalties 14, Kitty Kats 1
- Pasawayz 9, Try Luck 6

Tuesday B

- Atarashi Boyz 10, Dabarkadz 5
- Like It Or Not 10, Dartaholics 5
- Pasaways 8, Titans 7

Chichirika C

- Darty Flights 12, Bull-It 3
- Tokers 11, DNA Jump It 4

Kingfisher C

- Sea-Ricks 10, Chagi Fan 5
- Spartans 10, High Flyers 5
- Dart Knights 8, Hafa Mas 7

THEA

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mataku of Vanuatu and they are seeded eighth in Flight 1 of the main draw. The Pacific Oceania teammates recorded their first win against Haileigh Harper and Marina Schmidt of Harford Community College, 6-1, 6-0, to move into the Round of 16.

In the second round, Minor and Banimataku were paired against Olivia Rolle and Michelle Chemally of Florida State College of Jacksonville

and needed three sets to pull off another victory. The NMMI duo dropped the opening set, 4-6, but eked out a come-from-behind win after sweeping the last two, 6-2, 6-4.

Incidentally, Minor and Banimataku may have a familiar foe in the doubles quarterfinals as the Bronco pair will meet Bianco and Macarena Olivares, who are seeded first in Flight 1. The ASA College players drew a bye in the first round and marched into the quarterfinals after downing

Sommer Champion and Vanessa Almanza of Collin College, 6-1, 6-2.

In the team standings, Minor's NMMI is tied for 15th with Itawamba Community College as of yesterday with the two schools earning 12 points each. Points are given to schools based on the results of their players singles and doubles matches. There is a three-way standoff for first place with ASA College State College of Froida and Tyler Junior College getting 27 points apiece.

MPU

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after gaining his second goal 10 minutes before the 60-minute match wrapped up.

MP United's rival last year, Paire U12 co-ed, will not be able to defend its crown this season after bowing to Kanoa FC U12 coed in the other quarterfinal game at the San Antonio Elementary School Field. Kanoa cruised to a 4-1 win over the dethroned champion with the former drawing goals from four different players.

Jaydee Jose put Kanoa U12 on the board in the 14th minute,

while Ian Karl Maniago made it a 2-0 count at halftime with his conversion in the 21st. Merrick Toves added one more goal in the 42nd before Paire U12 finally answered off Kaden Church's goal in the 46th. Kanoa U12, however, had the last say with John Anastacio finding the back of the net in the 56th minute.

Before falling to Kanoa, Paire won its opening game in the FA Cup, eliminating MP United U15G last Wednesday, 3-2, at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. Church registered a hat-trick in Paire's close win over MP United U15G, which got its two goals from Gillian

Villagomez.

Meanwhile, joining Kanoa U12 and MP United U12 in the semifinals were Shirley's FC U15G and Matansa FC U15G.

Shirley's FC, which ruled the spring league's girls U15 competition, pulled off a 2-1 victory over Tan Holdings U15G last weekend at the KES pitch to set up a semis date against MP United U12.

Diana Maniacop handed Shirley's the semis berth as she scored the go-ahead goal two minutes after Chevy Kate Alipio equalized for Tan Holdings in the 36th minute. Maniacop also logged Shirley's other goal in the 29th.

Comets' Nakamura hauls award in Senior League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Comets slugger Franko Nakamura won all Seniors division batting category awards of the Saipan Little League in last Sunday's trophy presentation after the final match between the Enforcers and the Red Sox at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Enforcers rallied from a two-run deficit in completing a 4-2 win over the Red Sox in the finals.

Nakamura was the batting champ after going for 24-for-43 for a .558 average then added the most runs and RBIs awards with 16 and 17, respectively. He also had the most triples with five then joined the Red Sox's Roke Tenorio in the doubles with four.

Nakamura, teammate Anthony Ilo and Franklin Lizama of

the Enforcers belted three of the season's home runs.

Nakamura's amazing performance at the plate earned for him the regular season most valuable player award, his seventh.

Red Sox hurlers Richard Atalig and Nathan Camacho ruled the pitching category with the former earning the ERA trophy after not surrendering any earned runs in the 15 innings he pitched. Camacho was the strikeout king with 57.

The Red Sox were the pennant champs and the runner-up after falling to the Enforcers in the finals. The Comets took home the Sportsmanship trophy.

The Enforcers' J.J. Chong was named the finals MVP after going 2-for-3 in their 4-2 win over the Red Sox. He had a two-RBI double in the Enforcers' four-run comeback in the bottom of the sixth.

BRAVES

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with the Taalabwogh catcher moving to third on a wild pitch.

Kani, after Michael Tookane struck out swinging, scored on a throwing error by Red Sox catcher Shane Mallens to keep the Falcons' comeback hopes alive.

Kyle Kapileo reached first base safely on another Mallens error and scored on a wild pitch to make it 9-4. James Salalila walked but Camacho ended the game when he forced Isaiah

Teigita to ground out to third.

Oren Cruz, who struck out in his first at bat, went 2-for-3 with an RBI-triple in the Red Sox's five-run sixth inning. He had a double in the fourth and scored one run.

Mallens had one run in a 2-for-3 batting performance, while Alexiana Tyquengco had an RBI single in the sixth and scored on a wild pitch.

The Falcons were aiming for a third straight title after beating the Braves in last year's finals, 9-2. They won their first crown in 2013 against Team McDonald's.

Tan Holdings earned the right to battle Shirley's FC for one of the four semis tickets after dominating Paire U15G last Wednesday, 4-1, at the Hopwood pitch. Chloe Salvosa anchored the victory with her three goals, while Brittany Wally contributed one. Guinevere Borja recorded Paire's lone goal in the loss.

Matansa FC U15G took the fourth and last semis slot after a 2-1 win over Tan Holdings U12 at the San Antonio pitch last Saturday.

Cousins Angelica and Lyka Sally posted the two goals for Matansa, while Ezekiel Canape

hit the only goal for Tan Holdings U12. Angelica scored first in the 11th minute, while Canape forced the deadlock three minutes later before Lyka broke the tie in the 20th. Matansa hung on tight on defense to preserve the slim lead and advance to the semifinals against Kanoa U12.

The Matansa U15G-Kanoa U12 semis tiff is set for today at 4:30pm at Hopwood Pitch 2. Over at Pitch 1 at the same time, MP United U12 and Shirley's U15G fight for the other finals berth. Winners of today's semis matches will go for all the marbles this Saturday at 3pm at the Hopwood pitch.

Galvez reminded that the tournament is open to all registered NMBA members, who has no unpaid membership fees. (NMBA)

Saipan Times badminton tourney set next week



Registration is ongoing for the inaugural Saipan Times Badminton Open Team Tournament, which kicks off on May 15 at 6:30pm at the TSL Sports Complex.

Deadline for sign up is on May 8, Friday, with a registration fee of \$25 per player. Tournament format is similar to the inaugural Traders Insurance Team Tournament, where players of each squad were chosen by blind draw per category.

The tournament is sponsored by the Saipan Times in cooperation with the Northern Marianas Badminton Association. This will be NMBA's second tournament for the year.

Tournament director Andreau Galvez said that presidents of the five clubs—Community Badminton Club, Golden Racquets, Saipan Badminton Club, Shirley's, and Taga—should encourage their members to join.

"This will be the first Open Team Tournament since some years back when team tournaments were open. This should be an interesting tournament and turn out should be good upon the participants joining this competition," said Galvez.

Galvez reminded that the tournament is open to all registered NMBA members, who has no unpaid membership fees. (NMBA)

4th Genesis Cup Finals

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Daniel's Dindo Pablo goes up for a layup against Caleb's Alex Gozon during the first half of their title game in the 4th Genesis Cup Christian Churches Inter-Color Basketball League last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Daniel's Art Borromeo, left, tries to keep the ball away from Caleb's Rodel Morales.



Daniel quarterback Andrew Palino barrels through the defense of Caleb's Willy Saccalan.



Caleb's Nathan Borromeo pulls up for an off-balance shot against two Daniel defenders.



Daniel's Angelo Hernaez unloads a baseline jumper against Caleb's Michael Cabanas.



Young guns Nathan Borromeo of Caleb, right, and Andrew Palino of Daniel jockey for position while waiting for the inbound pass.



Caleb's Michael Cabanas makes an uncontested layup.



Three Daniel defenders hound Caleb's Edison Castro.



Caleb's Arvin Bacani stops and pops for a short jumper.



Caleb's Willy Saccalan goes up for a running shot.



Griffin's triple-double lifts Clippers over Rockets

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Easy wins for Armatech, Ol'Aces

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Thea still unbeaten in nationals

Braves, Red Sox clash for Majors crown

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Natibu Sports Association Braves and the Bank of Guam Red Sox turned back separate opponents to arrange a finals showdown in the Saipan Little League's majors division.

The Braves used an 11-run sixth inning to dispatch the Docomo Ol'Aces, 18-4, while the Red Sox banked on their pitching and defense to thwart the Taalabwogh Little Falcons' three-peat title bid, 9-4, in a pair of play-offs matches last Sunday at the Miguel Basa Pangelinan ballfield.

The Braves-Red Sox title match is set at 11am on Saturday at the "Tan Ge" field after the 9am consolation game between the Ol'Aces and the Falcons.

The Red Sox, which finished tied for second with the Falcons with 10-2 records in the regular season, are aiming for payback after one of their losses came against the Braves. They also lost to the Comets while the Braves bagged the pennant with an 11-1 card.

Braves 18, Ol'Aces 4

Vicente Camacho II belted an inside-the-park homerun and pitched five innings in start to help the Braves secure the first finals berth.

Camacho went 4-for-5 blasting a two-run shot, which was part of the Braves' 11 runs in the top of the sixth, with two outs. He was a triple

shy of hitting the cycle with two doubles, scored four runs, and drove in five more.

The 12-year-old then worked for five innings on the mound surrendering three earned runs on five hits while striking out eight and walking three.

Josenio Alvarez scored twice and had a pair of two-RBI doubles in a 3-for-4 batting, while Anthony Disen had two runs, two doubles, and two RBIs after going 3-for-5 at the plate. Anthony Norita, 2-for-4, had an RBI double and had two runs.

Disen pitched in relief giving up a lead off double to Lufo Babauta in the bottom of the sixth but the latter was tagged out while attempting to reach third base.

He then surrendered a single to Nathan Aizon but the Ol'Aces third baseman was left stranded after Disen retired Latrel Deleon Guerrero and Tristan Rogolifo, respectively, to end the game.

Red Sox 9, Falcons 4

Devon Pangelinan threw a two-hitter in 4.1 innings in start where he was tagged with one earned run while fanning two, and walking one in the Red Sox's victory.

Zachary Camacho closed out for the Red Sox surrendering one earned run on no hits with three strikeouts and three walks.

Camacho, who struck out Falcons lead off batter Chris Gonzales in the bottom of the sixth, walked Sandy Tiani

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JON PEREZ

The Taalabwogh Little Falcons' Kyle Kapileo, left, runs along with Marty Taisacan of the Red Sox as the latter attempts to reach third base in their playoff game in the Saipan Little League last Sunday at the Miguel Basa Pangelinan ballfield.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor has yet to drop a match in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 National Championships in Tucson, Arizona.

Minor, who is playing for the New Mexico Military Institute, won her first two games both in the singles and doubles events

last Sunday and Monday at the Refkin Tennis Center to make it to the quarterfinals.

In the singles contest, Minor

is in Flight 2 of the main draw and pounded Amanda Bertoldi of Snead State, 6-0, 6-0, in the opening round. Up next was the No. 8 seed Daniella Sanz of Barton Community College and the un-ranked Minor also took only two sets to prevail and march into the quarterfinals. Minor waltzed past Sanz in the first set, 6-1, before working out a tough 7-5 vic-

tory in the second set.

The Saipan Southern High School graduate will face another seeded player in the quarterfinals today as she goes up against the No. 1-ranked Megane Bianco of ASA College. Bianco got a free pass to the quarterfinals after a no-show from Shelby Gilliland (ill).

In the doubles, Minor partnered with Lorraine Bani-

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2015 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup is down to four teams with last year's finalist MP United Football Club U12 leading the semis cast in the annual competition.

MP United U12, which lost the 2014 championship to Paire U12 in a shootout, 2-3, boosted its chances for a return trip to the finals following a 4-0 rout of Kanoa FC U15G last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary

School Field.

Akira Kadokura towed MP United U12 to the easy win, knocking in a pair of goals against

Kanoa's U15 girls crew. Kadokura scored his first goal in the 18th minute to give MP United a 2-0 advantage. Dylan Cho handed MP United its first goal in the fourth minute, while Jon

Villagomez lifted his team to a 3-0 halftime edge with his shot in the 19th. Kadokura closed out for last season's runner-up

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MP United U12 co-ed team members and officials pose for a photo after winning the division championship in the NMIFA spring youth league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field late last month. The team is now in the semifinals of the 2015 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup.